

**DRAFT Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
June 25, 2024 Meeting**

Plymouth Public Library, 1 Russell St., Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264

Members Present:

Ashland: Kathleen DeWolfe

Bridgewater: Judy Faran

Bristol: Max Stamp

Campton: Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas

Holderness: Will Abbott

Lincoln: O.J. Robinson

New Hampton: Lewis Mundy Shaw, Russ Brummer, Barry Draper

Plymouth: Bill Bolton, Lisa Doner, Neil McIver

Thornton: Myrtle Lewis

Woodstock: James Chesebrough

At Large:

LRPC: Dave Jeffers (Zoom)

Guest:

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.
2. **Review of minutes:** The minutes of the May 2024 meeting were reviewed. No revisions were made. Bill made a motion to approve, Barry seconded. Minutes approved with 7 abstentions.
3. A review of the **LRPC Annual Meeting** held June 17th. Bill, Judy, Janet and Sherrill attended. They met the new Director of LRPC. The PRLAC table was attended and there were many who took copies of the new management plan and brochure.
4. Myrtle Lewis wrote an **article** about the PRLAC New Management Plan and it appeared in the Plymouth Record Enterprise. The article was highly praised. Myrtle thanked Lisa Doner for her input.
5. Bill reviewed the **VRAP** program which is in progress. The south team needed some repairs to their equipment. The North team (Lincoln and Woodstock) have now started testing, sharing equipment with the Central team.
6. **Owl's Nest Rising Ridge project** in Campton has received conditional approval. There are some pending issues and additional information has been requested from NHDES.
7. The **Instream Flow Study** continues for the Pemigewasset. NHDES is currently installing monitors along the river. Their work has been somewhat hampered by recent heavy rains.

8. Sherrill wanted to make sure we received the email regarding how to get the latest edition of Inspired. This is a **Water Quality Management and Research Report** published by the NH Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of New Hampshire. The issue highlights recent work from Station scientists that cover the effects of urbanization on water chemistry, the role of plants and bacteria in reducing pollution, how advanced sensors and drones are making water quality measurements safer and more accurate, and the role of rivers in reducing carbon and methane emissions. Each brief offers practical insights that can help landowners, agencies, non-profits, and policymakers make informed decisions about managing our water resources.
9. **PRLAC membership update.** Lisa's renewal has been confirmed. Kathleen's renewal is pending. No word on Tyson's renewal.
10. **PRLAC contact list** will be updated by individuals on an as needed basis.
11. NHDES has issued an approved Standard Dredge and Fill for the **Ashland bridge 076/080** that spans between Ashland and Bridgewater. They have also issued a Wetland and Non-Site-Specific Permit (with conditions) # 2024-01217.
12. Barry announced that the **New Hampshire Fish and Game** have signed a contract worth \$7.253 million to construct a new fish hatchery in New Hampton. This will be on the site of the current hatchery and replace the current hatchery. This new site will be the main site in NH and most, if not all, other hatcheries will be shut down.
13. James from Woodstock questioned the **fee paid by Woodstock to LRPC**. Dave said that LRPC provides administrative services to Lincoln and Woodstock. Also, those towns do receive input from PRLAC, even those these towns are not part of the River Management Protection Program (RMPP). While those towns are not part of the RMPP, PRLAC wants to emphasize that Woodstock and Lincoln are encouraged and welcome to participate in PRLAC activities including voting on all issues. These towns are also welcome to come to PRLAC with questions and concerns about activities in their towns.

There was some issue of allowing these towns not getting a copy of the New PRLAC Management Plan. This was a misunderstanding and these towns were given copies of the plan at the previous meeting.
14. There will be a meeting at the Lincoln town hall for PRLAC to present to the towns of **Lincon and Woodstock the PRLAC New Management Plan**. This will be July 1st at the Lincoln Town Hall 5:30PM. Sherrill and Judy will be attending.
15. Myrtle announced that **Owl's Nest are donating some islands** in the Pemi river to the NH Fish and game. They are currently working out the details.

16. Myrtle announced that **Owl's Nest** will be planting native plants around the new ponds they built. They will be working with the UNH Extension and the county forester.
17. Lisa announced that they will be **water testing the Baker River** this Friday, June 28th.
18. Lisa announced that **the Oxbow property** acquisition is progressing, but has hit a few snags. Also, the town of Holderness had not done their work to allow them to own land outside of the town.
19. **Owl's nest in Ashland** is amending their plans regarding a maintenance shed. After completing a property survey they found that their original plans included property and land that was not theirs.
20. **Plymouth rejected a Hilton Hotels** proposal to build a new hotel along Smith Bridge Rd. The main concern being the traffic issues at the junction of Smith Bridge Rd and Tenney Mountain Highway.
21. Max mentioned that the **Bristol Pemi Path** project has hit some snags. This is a project to create a path from downtown Bristol to Profile Falls. One of the larger donators has backed out. The leader of the project has resigned and the funding has dried up.
22. As there were so many members in attendance for this meeting, Dave took a picture of the committee.
23. O.J. motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Lisa seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

For meeting minutes, agenda, and information visit the PRLAC website at
<http://www.lakesrpc.nh.gov/>