

**DRAFT Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
August 27, 2024 Meeting**

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

Members Present:

Ashland: Kathleen DeWolfe

Bridgewater: Judy Faran

Bristol:

Campton: Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas

Holderness: Will Abbott (Zoom)

Lincoln: O.J. Robinson

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

Plymouth: Lisa Doner (Zoom), Bill Bolton, Neil McIver

Thornton: Myrtle Lewis

Woodstock: James Chesebrough

At Large:

LRPC:

Guest:

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.
2. **Review of minutes:** The minutes of the July 2024 meeting were reviewed. Typo correction for Item six, last sentence. Changing the word “out” to “our”. No other revisions were made. Kathleen made a motion to approve, OJ seconded. Minutes approved with revision. Three abstentions.
3. Sherrill received the final determination letter regarding the **Eversource line rebuild** for Campton and Thornton and Woodstock. Primarily for the Power Line Maintenance.
4. Thornton Planning Board held a meeting August 15th for a continued hearing regarding the **Pemi River Campground proposed expansion**. The plans are now for 25 RV sites. The Campground does not want to ask for any permits from NHDES until they get the Town of Thornton’s approval. The Town does not want to grant approval until certain requirements are met. The plans overall were discussed at length with no conclusion. The application was tabled until the next meeting.
5. **Tyson Morrill** submitted a letter of resignation from PRLAC, as he has moved out of the area. Sherrill will send him a note thanking him for his service.
6. PRLAC has received a letter and preliminary plans from **Patriot Hydro** for a Wetlands permit for maintenance dredging at the Ayres Island Dam in Bristol. This is for a project to

dredge the river bed to protect the intake valves. PRLAC has received nothing from NHDES yet on this project.

7. Discussion of the new plans for **DOT bridge #76/80-Ashland Bridgewater** line Comment deadline 09/06/2024. PRLAC did not have any specific comments besides the usual use of Best Management Practices. BMP's. This is a much-needed project at the bridge is in tough shape.
8. **VRAP update.** The Central group finished their testing July 26th. The North has acquired their equipment and will finish their testing in the next week. The south will do its last testing 8/28. James, from the North group, expressed his thanks for the loan of the equipment and for their participation in the process. Some discussion was held about how to get results of the testing to see the health of the river. It is understood that at some point PRLAC will get a report from NHDES.
9. PRLAC had received notice of a special permit application from **the NH Department of Agriculture Division of Pesticide Control**. This permit will allow for herbicide application to control invasive species and poison ivy at NH Department of Transportation bridges. Sherrill sent in the PRLAC response. Most PRLAC members had serious concerns about the type of herbicides that are proposed being used.

PRLAC received back a letter from David Rousseau – Director of the Department of Agriculture, Division of Pesticide Control. The letter outlined the State of NH policies on the use of pesticides. The letter did say that they would share out alternative methods with the applicant.

10. Lake Region Planning Commission (LRPC) sent out the **annual invoices** for the towns funding of PRLAC activities. The Town of New Hampton is saying that they will need a Citizen Petition in order to approve this expenditure as the amount had increased from the previous invoices.

Myrtle pointed out that the letter and invoice for this year's funds were sent out in a generic form with no specific town listed and with no invoice number. She said most towns will not pay from this type of invoice. The invoice needs to be specific with an invoice number, who is being billed, and what serviced they will receive from PRLAC.

PRLAC will pass these comments on to LRPC.

Some discussion was held regarding who manages the money that PRLAC receives and what it gets spent on. Sherrill will try an obtain an accounting of the 2023 – 2024 accounting.

11. Sydney Gendreau -Watershed Planning Assistant, NHDES sent out an email regarding the **NH Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG)**. Her email outlined opportunities for the publics participation in the drafting of the next deliverable under this U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) planning grant. There will be two meetings in

September to gain input and there is a CPRG website people can access to gain more information.

12. The Alteration of Terrain application for the **Pope Road project in Thornton** has been approved with some conditions outlined.
13. There is an application for a Standard Dredge and Fill permit for **34 Public Service Drive** in New Hampton. Little is known about what this is about, but we suspect that it has to do with the dredging application for the Ayers Island Dam. See item 6.
14. Steve Whitman from Resilience Planning and Design LLC is preparing a management plan for the **Oxbow Land project in Holderness**. He sent to PRLAC a survey regarding this project and Sherrill sent in the responses.

Lisa mentioned that the land transfer from the private land owners to the Town of Holderness was happening today.

15. Kathleen mentioned that the Ashland Planning Board has received an Alteration of Terrain permit application for the **White Mountain CC/ Owl's Nest**. This is on the Planning Board's agenda for 8/28/24, but the details of what this is about is not available yet.
16. During the last water testing, Barry met with a gentleman from the NH Marine Patrol who happened to be at **Mooney-Clark Landing** in Bristol while the tests were being done. Barry discussed road maintenance with him. He pointed out that it is the jurisdiction of the NH Fish and Game, not Marine Patrol. Barry did confirm that the speed limit on the river is 10 MPH, although it is not posted and rarely enforced.
17. OJ mentioned that there is a 20-acre parcel on the East Branch of the Pemigewasset that the **Town of Lincoln** is working to create a riverfront park. This site will have river access for small craft boat launch and other non-evasive recreation. From previous manufacturing on the site, there are residual chemicals found. NHDES is working on a remediation plan and hoping that this plan will pave the way for the EPA to do the funding and cleanup of the site.
18. Janet said that the **Town of Campton** is having trouble with Japanese Knotweed growing to such an extent that it is become a hazard for driving visibility and road access. The town is working on a study with NHDOT and NH Dept. of Agriculture to do an herbicide application to remediate this problem. Janet will let PRLAC know more as the town finalizes its plan.
19. The cart barn project at **Owl's Nest (ONA) in Ashland** was discussed again. The primary concerns include the proximity to a very steep ravine leading to water. The washing for the carts could allow runoff down into the ravine damaging the ecosystem with the golf course chemicals that are washed off the carts. There does not appear to be enough plans in place to make sure all washing is collected and processed safely.

They also plan on paving an area that is now grass. This will only lead to more impervious surfaces allowing more runoff. This is also a concern.

20. Bill motioned that the meeting be adjourned, OJ seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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