

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

Members Present:

Ashland: Kathleen De Wolfe

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: Neil McIver, Bill Bolton, Lisa Doner

Thornton: Myrtle Lewis

Woodstock: Brenna Woodman (Zoom), Jim Chesebrough

At Large:

LRPC: Dave Jeffers

Guest:

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.
2. **Review of minutes:** The minutes of the July 2025 meeting were reviewed. Two small typos were corrected. Sherrill made a motion to approve. Kathleen 1st, Janet seconded. The minutes as amended were approved by all.
3. Lisa Doner had provided the committee with results of her E. coli water testing on the **Baker River**. Most sites had levels within safe limits. One site (Saunders Hill) had a test count over the 'safe beach' threshold of 88 counts/100 ml. All towns in the study were notified of these results. Lisa also stated that the salinity levels for the Baker River were consistently very high with an average of 100 micro Siemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), instead of the usual 10. Causes are likely due to low water levels and the amount of road salt applied during the last winter.
4. Timmie Maine Miller had sent to the committee an article in Boston Magazine about the development plans for **South Peak Resort at Loon Mountain**. This was FYI for the committee and was listed as a "paid partnership between South Peak Resort and Boston Magazine". Sherrill asked O.J. what the status was for water and sewer in Lincoln. He said they were both fine, but sewer capacity will need to be addressed before the water capacity will.
5. NHDES has announced a **New Ecological Review Section for Permit Applications**. As of July 1, 2025, NHDES has centralized ecological reviews under a newly formed Ecological

Review Section for Alteration of Terrain and Wetland permit applications. This change consolidates responsibilities previously held by other agencies, making the process simpler, faster and more accessible for applicants—while maintaining strong protection for the state’s unique plants, wildlife and natural communities. These proposed rules will be adopted by the end of August and the final rules are expected to take effect by the end of this year.

6. Sherrill provided the committee with a list of towns and who paid their **PRLAC annual dues**. Some towns have yet to pay, but the due date for payment has not arrived. Although letters to communities are typically sent in the fall (for budgetary purposes for the next fiscal year (July - June)), invoices are sent in the spring with payment expected by June 30 of the current fiscal year. Woodstock, for example plans to pay closer to the deadline. A few towns, including Bristol, have requested that we appear in person and defend our invoice. A meeting has been scheduled for October 14th and Bill and Barry plan to attend and make a presentation. Bristol has requested supporting documents related to the invoice by September 30th. Sherrill will send this to the town.
7. Dave presented the **PRLAC income and expense report**. Over the last year (July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025) PRLAC had expenses of \$4,320.00. Income was \$3,600.00. LRPC covered \$720.00 in labor. We are anticipating higher income, and expenses are anticipated to be a bit lower this fiscal year.
8. The State of New Hampshire - Division of Pesticide Control has received a Special Permit application from the NH Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Bridge Maintenance, which requests easement in order to **control vegetation for bridge maintenance purposes**. A number of the bridges proposed under this application fall within designated river corridors. Specifically, NHDOT Bureau of Bridge Maintenance has requested easement for pesticide applications within rights-of-way, where portions of these rights-of-way also fall within the regulatory setback of surface waters and public water supplies. Easement is being requested in order to apply pesticides to control various invasive plant species and poison ivy. The application has proposed spot treatment using foliar applications of Rodeo, Roundup Pro Concentrate, and/or Roundup Custom for Aquatic and Terrestrial Use (all three products contain the active ingredient glyphosate), and Milestone (contains the active ingredient aminopyralid).

Barry had drafted a letter regarding this issue from a previous similar application. Barry and Sherrill with review that letter and send it out as the PRLAC response. The due date for this response is September 12, 2025.

9. A drinking water infrastructure rehabilitation project in **The City of Franklin** has been submitted to PRLAC for comment with a due date of August 28, 2025. Sherrill submitted

our standard response of Best Management Practices, and urged them to contact the Upper Merrimack LAC as much of the work along the Winnepesaukee falls into their area.

10. PRLAC has developed a partnership with a student at Plymouth State University to develop a **GIS on-line story map of the Pemi River Corridor Management Plan**. Dave from LRPC says they can act as the host of the story map. The student is Jessen Delaney. Ina Ahern has agreed to mentor the student. They may come to visit PRLAC to get some details for this project.
11. The **Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District** is proposing to expand solar production at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, 53 South St. Plymouth which borders the Pemigewasset River. Bill said he would like to tour the facility and view to proposed project. Bill will contact them to see if a tour could be held, preferably on September 30th prior to the PRLAC meeting.
12. Sherrill received a document expressing concern about all the changes that are happening about **PFAS regulations** and encouraging PRLAC to keep an open ear and eye for these changes with the goal of discouraging leniency.
13. NHDES is proposing rule updates to streamline the **Alteration of Terrain permitting** process. These rules are being written in response to the changes recently mandated by HB 2 in RSA 485-A:17, the Terrain Alteration portion of the Water Pollution and Waste Disposal statute. The major change is a new Permit by Notification (PBN) process for projects with total disturbed area between 100,000 and 150,000 square feet or solar projects up to 5 megawatts that are completely outside of the protected shoreland. For this process, NHDES will have 14 days to review a complete application to verify eligibility but will not perform a technical review of plans. The PBN process cannot be used for projects that are only for mining earth products (e.g., gravel pits), are seeking an after-the-fact permit, have an outstanding violation, or require a waiver. The new AoT PBNs will be made available starting January 1, 2026.
14. Kathleen gave us an update regarding the proposed **Waste-to-Energy plant to be built in Ashland**. It was thought this project had been dropped, but it has come up again. This proposal will still have to go through the selectmen and town for approval. Right now there is an Ad hoc committee (which includes two members of the Board of Selectmen) gathering information to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. The Ad hoc committee is now in favor of this project in the hopes of generating income for the town. The Town of Ashland would lease the land to the owner of the facility in 5 year increments. There are a number of concerns including, but not limited to, the proximity to the river, disposal of the ash waste, emissions control and vehicle and train transportation access to and from the facility.

15. Judy and Russ discussed the **water testing** sample and the problem of getting them to DES. Recently the South water testing team could not get an appointment with DES to accept the samples. It is unclear if this was a one-time issue or a trend. The concern is that Russ had to make a separate trip to get samples and get them to Concord. NHDES has the PRLAC water testing schedule yet failed to provide access to the lab on those dates. Lisa had a problem with the Baker River samples too.
16. Bill announced that today was the last day for **water testing** for his team. Judy said the South team's last day is Wednesday August 27th. The North team will be finishing on Friday.
17. Dave announced that the next **LRPC Commissioners meeting** will be September 22nd. The topic will be Legislative Up-dates. The meeting will be focused on the newly enacted zoning laws affecting our communities. The Lakes Region Planning Commission will share updates on the legislation and offer insights and guidance from both the New Hampshire Municipal Association and the State Office of Planning and Development. PRLAC members are encourage to share this information with their towns.
18. Sherrill entertained a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Lisa 1st, Bill seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith L. Faran

Judith L. Faran
Secretary
Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

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