

Pelham Planning Board
Minutes of the Regular meeting
August 8, 2016

Present: Members Abbie Jenks, Leslie Laurie, Lexi Dewey, Judy Eiseman
Larry Smith and Dillon Sussman from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)

Submitted by Judith Eiseman, recording

1. Stormwater Management (efforts to keep water on the land and limit impervious surfaces rather than allowing water to runoff instead of recharging groundwater and streams, erode roads, spread pollutant, cause property damage, etc.) is a concern throughout the state and nation. Larry Smith presented information on a draft Stormwater Management Bylaw indicating that the time is coming when all communities will need to adhere to stricter state environmental standards as a result of EPA standards. [See Note below.]

His opinion is that Pelham should pass this as a general bylaw rather than zoning bylaw and advised that the town might want it to apply to all projects that trigger review as well as projects that would have to comply anyway but are exempt because of smaller size. It was noted that the Conservation Commission and the DPW should be involved in discussions.

Assessing a substantial fee so that consultant costs are covered was also discussed.

2. Low Impact Development (LID)—requires more environmentally sensitive development and Smith presented a model bylaw for Pelham to consider. This will require revisions in subdivision and zoning regs.

The Chair noted that we will have to redouble our efforts on the Village Center zoning effort because budget constraints mandate that Sussman's work be done by December of this year.

Next meeting: 7pm September 19, 2016.

NOTE from the recorder: For clarification for readers of these minutes, please note that on April 13, 2016, EPA issued a Notice that it has adopted the new MS4 permit, with an effective date of July 1, 2017. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources (pipes, ditches, drains, etc.) that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Massachusetts is not currently delegated by EPA to issue NPDES permits, but is initiating the process to develop a stormwater management program in accordance with NPDES and the Clean Water Act. The EPA's MS4 permit requirements have been strengthened and all states must comply. MS4 is the abbreviation for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.