

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED FEBRUARY 13, 2018

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Al Hall (Candia), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests present: Cris Blackstone, Tyler Milam

Summary of motions:

Carolyn Matthews made a motion to approve the slate with Dick Lord as vice chair and Preston Samuel as treasurer. Al Hall seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to renew the land protection administrator's contract plus 5%. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to renew the outreach specialist's contract plus a 2.7% increase. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to amend the existing contract with the grants specialist with a not-to-exceed limit of \$5000. All Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting began at 7:00.

introductions:

Newmarket residents Cris Blackstone (awaiting appointment by NHDES) and Tyler Milam were introduced and welcomed by the group.

approval of minutes from November 14, 2017:

Al Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

Account activity, Chick and Dee-Dee sales, year-to-date, and land protection were reviewed and all was in order.

election of vice chair and treasurer:

Carolyn Matthews made a motion to approve the slate with Dick Lord as vice chair and Preston Samuel as treasurer. Al Hall seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

workgroup updates:

land protection:

The group last convened in December. SELT has several promising projects in the works.

outreach, recreation, and history:

- Meeting notes are attached.
- Website issues were investigated. Downloading the entire site showed that bandwidth is probably between 4 and 5 GB, so it is large. It was agreed that the current host and site are working well and no major changes are warranted right now. A request was made to have Altos provide a copy of the entire site if the price is reasonable. A suggestion was also made to research Google Analytics so we can better understand how the site is being used.

project review:

- Immediately prior to the meeting, the group completed a review of a project for a septic system in Raymond.
- Concerns about the coordination of two separate projects in Newmarket were discussed. The town has hired an outside engineering firm to review.

water quality:

The student analyst is making good progress in his work. The next meeting will be held January 18.

wildlife:

Two wildlife trail cameras were purchased in December and tested at representatives' homes for practice. The group will meet in February to discuss when and where to deploy them along the river.

NH Charitable Foundation Grant:

The grant awarded last year had an end date of March 15, 2018. Because no work took place last year due to contractual issues, an extension was needed. Extensions normally run 6 months, but the contract between LRAC and Trout Unlimited had an end date of Dec. 31, 2018. An extended extension was requested and granted.

LRWA update:

The main activity right now is revamping the water quality monitoring program. The program for the Ashuelot is being reviewed as a model. Going forward, approved LRWA minutes will be shared with LRAC.

memorandum of agreement for land protection administrator:

Joe Foley noted that the administrator has not received a cost-of-living increase in several years. He suggested that her contract be renewed but with a 5% raise.

Al Hall made a motion to renew the land protection administrator's contract plus 5%. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

memorandum of agreement for outreach specialist:

The most recent cost of living increase for the area north of Boston was noted to be 2.7%. **Al Hall made a motion to renew the outreach specialist's contract plus a 2.7% increase. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

memorandum of agreement for grants specialist:

It was noted that \$15,000 had been allotted for the grants specialist in FY 2017, but that figure was much too high given actual work accomplished. It was suggested that an amount not to exceed \$5000 be used instead. This amount will allow some flexibility for seeking partners and leveraging LRAC's share. **Dick Lord made a motion to amend the existing contract with the grants specialist with a not-to-exceed limit of \$5000. All Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

town updates:

- Newmarket: Engineers presented the town council with three options for upgrading Macallen Dam. The south wall will be raised 3.5 to 6 feet to fortify the weak corner. If the town elects to include dam gate improvements at the same time, the south wall will not need to be raised as much. The town council will recommend one of the options to the town for a vote this spring.
- Durham: Work intended to improve rabbit habitat at Thompson Forest has left some of the property looking rather bleak. Native shrubs will be planted in spring. An article with a photo from the *Durham Friday Updates* was passed around.

Twenty Years of Progress report:

Presentations have been made to roughly half of the towns. Representatives were encouraged to make formal but short presentations to the town council/ board of selectmen.

highlights from the State of Our Estuaries Conference, Dec. 8, 2017:

The role of nitrogen in the declining resilience of the estuaries was put in to the greater context of multiple confounding issues. Of key interest to the Lamprey River watershed, it was noted again that while all the tributary rivers have dissolved oxygen violations where they enter Great Bay, the Lamprey suffers from the most severe and longest lasting episodes. What was new this year was the recognition that the Lamprey exhibits strong stratification of the water column, thus inhibiting good mixing.

draft kiosk policy:

The outreach and history workgroup noted concern that recipients of LRAC-funded kiosks might not be taking care of these assets and a policy that outlines LRAC and recipient responsibilities would be helpful. A draft policy was prepared and shared, but the group agreed that it should be tweaked more before the full committee reviews it as formal policy.

non-public session:

In accordance with NHRSA 91-3-A, Dick Lord made a motion to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel and policy matter and to include staff members. Joe Foley seconded. By roll-call vote, the following representatives agreed: Emily Schmalzer, Al Hall, Dick Lord, Kitty Miller, Mary Ann Krebs, Joe Foley, Carolyn Matthews, Preston Samuel.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

**Outreach, Rec, & Hist Workgroup Meeting Notes
January 3, 2018**

present: Mary Ann Krebs, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen

kiosk policy:

Suzanne will draft a policy that includes the following points:

- style brand: Kiosk frames should ideally be similar to existing kiosks at Mary Blair Park, Rte 87 crossing, Wiswall Falls, and Schanda Park.
- LRAC information: Kiosk panels should include LRAC logo, NPS funding info, LRAC website QR code, and LRAC website URL.
- inspection: LRAC will keep a list of LRAC sponsored kiosks and establish a schedule for routine inspection/review of kiosk and immediate area. Kiosks will be visited at least twice a year and assessed for structural integrity, vandalism, legibility, overall visibility on site (are weeds hiding the structure, overall landscaping), and other issues that might arise. Ideally, reps from each town will visit the kiosks and report back to full committee.
- maintenance: Issues identified will be discussed at full LRAC meeting. If easily addressed, LRAC will perform maintenance. If more serious issues are identified, report to town DPW or parks director to see what the town can do.

Twenty Year Reports:

Of the 100 copies printed, almost all are now distributed or reserved. Suzanne will get a price estimate for various numbers of copies and report back.

website status:

- Mary Ann downloaded the full website and it is between 5 and 6 gigabytes, or roughly the same amount of information as a set of encyclopedias. She spoke with someone from Altos and the best guess is that the site contains a coding error that places some information on something similar to an infinite loop.
- We are currently paying \$350/yr for hosting through Altos. The only colleague group we contacted that provided hosting fee information was a small foxhunt site and it costs \$250/yr.
- Mary Ann checked the LRAC site's compatibility with her smart phone and found that info loads quickly and clearly.
- Management issues have been resolved and updates can be loaded properly.
- By all accounts, we are getting a fair deal, the website is working, and there is no need currently to seek a new host or upgrade the site.

W&S Rivers Act 50th Anniversary:

We need to plan public activities and outreach to mark this anniversary. Suggestions are welcome.

septic system outreach:

- A suggestion was made last fall that LRAC ramp up its outreach efforts.
- At the recent State of Our Estuaries, a new management goal is to do more with septic systems.
- The Winnicut River is launching an effort, largely based on LRAC's original protocol, to do research and outreach.
- Two separate legislative bills are being debated this year that would help to beef up septic system standards: mandatory septic system inspection prior to sale of property and requirement that all septic systems be in compliance within 5 years.
- Suzanne would like to build a program that can be shared with all the watershed towns and that includes both community-wide education and at least one site-specific evaluation as a community demonstration. She will contact Chris Albert, wetland scientist and septic system designer, to see what could be done on the education side. This could be structured as a Small Grant for the first year. It was noted that the person who did this project originally might be available to do site evaluations as a non-regulatory person, a factor identified in post-project evaluations as critical to the program's success. If she is not available, we could seek help from one of her former colleagues or the cooperative extension.