

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes January 22, 2015
Regional Economic Development Center, 57 Main St., Raymond 7:00 pm**

APPROVED FEBRUARY 26, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Ann Welsh, Kitty Miller (excused)

guests: John Beauvilliers (Raymond), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield)

Meeting began at 7:03.

election of officers:

With candidate consent, a panel consisting of Dick Snow as chair, Joe Foley as vice chair, and Al Hall as secretary and treasurer was suggested by the nominating workgroup. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the panel as recommended. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Regular Business:

approval of minutes from Nov. 20, 2014:

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

Work Group Updates:

education and outreach:

Lots of activity planned for 2015:

- Repeat last year's "Hike It, Bike It, Like It" recreational series in Durham, Lee, and Epping plus add a new series in Newmarket.
- Repeat and expand last year's "Herring Aid" event at the McCallen Dam fish ladder with NH Fish and Game.
- Offer guided Junior Rangers program in Raymond or other upper watershed town in cooperation with the town's recreation or after-school department.
- Offer narrated DVD showings at libraries and include "Water 101" as an activity.
- Write, illustrate, and publish a children's story about the Lamprey's history.
- Offer guided support for the Lamprey River Curriculum, targeting 4th grade students, to be led by Debbie McNelly.
- Co-sponsor a presentation to inform residents about the Lamprey's impaired status and steps to take to help correct the problem.
- On-going activities: articles and newsletters, website management, vernal pool outreach, LRAC display at local fairs, continuing education, etc.
- Anyone who would like to join the outreach workgroup is most welcome!

history: Nothing new to report.

land protection:

- Two big projects will be closing soon.
- The next land protection meeting will be held on Jan. 23 at Sharon Meeker's house.

water issues:

- The water quality data project group had no updates.
- Newmarket has asked DES for \$14.1 million for the WWTF upgrade to comply with stricter EPA standards. A preliminary review by some of the project review workgroup members questioned language in the proposal that indicated that Newmarket was seeking to "increase capacity" at the facility. That language was inserted by DES, not Newmarket. SWA will be following this issue carefully.

wildlife: No update available.

project review:

- A proposal to replace a failing culvert with a rock ford was reviewed and a letter was sent indicating the review work group's concern with lack of detail and real need. The applicant has provided additional details and no additional comment is warranted.
- A DOT project in Raymond and Candia for work on Route 101 was reviewed earlier and the applicant has responded to LRAC concerns about the need or non-need for in-river work on a support pier for a bridge. The in-river pier work will, indeed, occur.
- DES is reviewing and revising the project review process to meet the needs of LACs. Several positive changes have already been instituted.
- The UNH dairy farm in Lee has proposed a tree thinning project in the quarter mile corridor of the Lamprey. The review work group has not seen the proposal yet. Dick Snow will contact the researcher for more details.

Wild and Scenic: The group did not meet in January, so nothing new to add.

Town Issues:

- Raymond has submitted an application for a large groundwater withdrawal permit. The site is located on conserved land behind Raymond High School. The water is in bedrock and tests show excellent water quality as well as high yield. This well replaces a site that had been proposed at the Thibeault sand pit located close to the Lamprey.
- Candia:
 - The Candia Conservation Commission is looking at replacing a foot bridge that has been dislodged several times when the stream floods. Is a permit required? If so, which one? A suggestion was made to attach a cable to the existing bridge so that it can be retrieved more easily if and when it is moved again.
 - No additional information about a required conservation easement at Liquid Planet has been received.
 - The recapping of the incinerator site is nearing completion.

Legislative Update:

- The RMPP has reviewed pending bills and will track progress on its website. This information will also be made available on the www.lampreyriver.org for the convenience of LRAC representatives.
- Concern was noted about HB167. This bill would direct the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development and DES to create a business development and marketing plan to attract businesses to New Hampshire that require a sustainable water supply. This would include water bottlers that would mine NH water for shipment elsewhere.

miscellaneous:

- Representative recruitment: Debbie McNelly has submitted her LRAC application to the Raymond Board of Selectmen.
- Follow-up: As requested at the November meeting, Dick Snow sent a letter of support for Raymond's efforts to provide public access to the Lamprey. It was reported that two of three grants Raymond is seeking for the project have been approved. The Raymond rep was encouraged to suggest that the town apply for a Small Grant from LRAC to help with signs or some other aspect of the project.
- Follow-up: As requested at the November meeting, the Newmarket condo parking lot near Schanda Park was visited and no additional action is warranted at this time.
- The Lamprey River Symposium was held on January 9, 2015. Summaries of presentations were made available to LRAC representatives and posted on the website. Reps were asked to review the summaries and suggest ways the information could be shared and used by a wider audience.
- Wadleigh Falls fish passage: Despite the breached dam, the site is impassable to river herring trying to get upstream. The state is eager to modify the falls to allow river herring to get upstream and into lots of suitable spawning habitat. The dam owner is adamant about his desire to establish a hydropower station at the falls some day and is unwilling to negotiate. DES is reviewing the deed and will ask for guidance from the state attorney general. Two key questions are who owns the river bottom at the site and who owns the gap in the dam created by the two breaches.
- Office space: No updates at this time. If a new office is pursued, a location that is the geographic center of the watershed was suggested.
- Future meetings: Chairman Snow would like to try rotating meeting sites to garner greater visibility throughout the watershed for the committee and provide opportunities to meet with prospective representatives and local conservation commissions. The group agreed by consensus to hold the next meeting in Brentwood and to invite members of the Exeter LAC.
- Goal setting: Chairman Snow's main goal right now is to recruit new members for the committee. Working groups should be using their time to create plans for work for the year. The outreach work group has a detailed plan that can be used as a model for other work groups.
- Visitors to LRAC meetings: Visitors should be actively solicited to add their viewpoints and express concerns. LRAC needs to be clear about why guests should attend.
- LRAC/LRWA: The two groups should plan to meet in March or April to create a joint plan of action.

- Website: How can the website be better populated with watershed-wide issues? A policy should be explored with W&S input.
- Ham Branch River nomination to RMPP: This stream is entirely first through third order and is thus currently not subject to shoreland protection review. While designation into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program would normally bring the river under the provisions of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, the nomination will be going before the legislature soon with a request to exclude the river from the SWQPA after designation which could have wide-reaching impacts. DES has made it clear that the staffing to handle reviews of a lot of first and second order streams would be very challenging.
- Pre-meeting time: The experiment of having work groups meet for a half hour before the regular LRAC meeting is not working... people have hard enough time being on-time for the regular meeting. Going forward, meetings will start at 7:00 and end at 8:30. Work groups that want to meet afterward are welcome to do so.

Adjournment: Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Michelle Daley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.