

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014
Epping Town Hall 7:00 p.m.**

APPROVED FEB. 27, 2014

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), , Anne Lightbody, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley, Jenn Rowden (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer, Fred Lindahl (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Alison Watts (Newfields), Ted Janusz (Raymond), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Harriet Cady, Dick Lord (excused), Rachel Stevens (excused), Kitty Miller (excused), Michelle Daley (excused), Mike Russo (excused), Peter Wellenberger (excused), Kathleen Hoelzel (excused)

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of Motions:

Preston Samuel made a motion to authorize the project review subcommittee to write a letter to the DES commissioner requesting notice of all permits by notification so that the committee can track projects along the river corridors. Ann Welsh seconded. Motion passed.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to refer further discussion and any potential letters to DES regarding the Candia incinerator site closure to the project review subcommittee. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from October 24, 2013:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ann Welsh seconded. Minutes were approved with 12 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

update on Patterson Paving :

Todd Piskovitz ascertained from DES that the permit is for riprap and drainage only. Patterson was also made aware in very clear terms that the riprap and drainage were the only permitted activities and that no additional work was authorized.

Concern was noted that DES practice was not to inform LACs of permits by notification, but that RSA 483 does not specifically preclude notification. Some permits by notification are for minor work, but others, such as the Patterson project appear to questionable. Even if the committee does not have time to comment officially due to the short time frame, members at least need to be aware.

Preston Samuel made a motion to authorize the project review subcommittee to write a letter to the DES commissioner requesting notice of all permits by notification so that the committee can track projects along the river corridors. Ann Welsh seconded. Motion passed.

Candia incinerator site closure update:

Dick Snow presented slides on the history of the site and the current status of closure. The original plan calls for removing material that is currently sitting atop the cap to an approved final landfill, but the town is seeking a waiver to leave the material on site. Initial tests show concentrations of lead to be 20 times the limit allowed by DES and cadmium is also present in elevated levels. So far the material has been characterized as solid waste, not hazardous waste. The potential receiving landfill has asked the town to do additional tests for pesticides, herbicides, and asbestos. The town has obtained samples and test results should be ready before the end of January.

Discussion ensued as to what LRAC should do with this information. Keys points follow:

- Does LRAC have concerns and does the committee have standing?
- LRAC has authority to review “project” permits, but so far no permit applications have been filed.
- While DES has the authority to regulate the siting of solid waste facilities, DES might not have the authority to force Candia to remove the significant amount of material that is currently on top of the cap.
- The project review subcommittee might want to review permit regulations and try to determine if the proposed cap-on-site project might exceed limitations of allowable work so close to the river.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to refer further discussion and any potential letters to DES regarding the Candia incinerator site closure to the project review subcommittee. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

town updates:

Ann Welsh noted that Durham has submitted a letter to DES noting its concerns about the Route 108 widening project and the increased potential to flood land under easement that has stipulations against hydrology changes.

subcommittee reports:

history: no report available.

outreach: Small Grants will be targeting towns to identify clogged culverts, patches of invasive weeds, and town sites that could be retrofitted with green stormwater infrastructure.

recreation: The Wild and Scenic subcommittee has authorized moving forward with a plan to document and characterize woody material that blocks canoe passage from the Route 87 bridge in Epping to Wadleigh Falls in Lee. LRWA has started the work independently and the two groups will work together to identify

sites where passage could be improved without damaging wildlife or fluvial values of the material.

land protection: The subcommittee will begin exploring ways to encourage riparian landowners to undertake voluntary practices that preserve or enhance natural values and services provided by good buffers, soil conservation, etc..

creation of a water quality/water quantity subcommittee:

Ann Welsh, Anne Lightbody, Emily Schmalzer, Pat deBeer, and Suzanne Petersen volunteered to begin work. Michelle Daley, in an e-mailed note, indicated a willingness to help but was not sure she could commit to being a member. The group was asked to present proposals to pursue 2 or 3 projects to the full committee in February.

selection of 2-3 priority activities from the management plan:

- Pursue conservation easements for as much land as possible along the rivers.
- Implement stormwater regulations initiative across the watershed with SWA, LRWA, and Rockingham Planning Commission. Target audience will be local decision makers. Late March or early April? Key appeal to towns could be availability of completed research and peer vetting of techniques that many towns are trying to do on their own. Explore possibility of offering continuing education credits for attendees. Outreach subcommittee will coordinate.
- Encourage riparian landowners to take care of their land by sponsoring a program that provides public recognition of best-practice efforts. Land protection subcommittee will coordinate.
- Gather and analyze water quality data and make it accessible to the general public. Alison Watts and Anne Lightbody have students who could help. UNH's EPSCoR program is pursuing a similar goal. A partnership might be explored. Water Q&Q subcommittee will coordinate.
- Seek town partners for stormwater demonstration projects that highlight treatment of water in site. Outreach and/or Small Grants subcommittee will coordinate.

Subcommittees responsible for the activities above were asked to create tangible work plan proposals that include problem statement, objectives, scope of services, schedule, and budget.

2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan distribution:

Each representative in attendance received a hard copy. A total of four copies should be delivered to each town. A draft presentation format was shared to present the plans to town governing body, planning board, and conservation commission. Libraries should receive a copy but no formal presentation is needed. In addition to the draft plan, it was suggested that presenters note that the plans can be included in town master plans as an appendix. Prior to presenting, LRAC representatives should review the Plan and offer a specific project or two that LRAC and the town could pursue together.

Reflections on a River DVD distribution:

Each representative was asked to deliver a copy to the town library with an accompanying letter. For those who so choose, copies were also available to provide to town cable access channels. The DVD tells the story of thirty years of volunteer efforts to protect the Lamprey, beginning with the formation of LRWA.

future meeting site:

The meetings for February and March will be held at Epping Town Hall. Joe Foley reminded the group that a new chair will need to be elected in March.

legislation comment subcommittee:

Jenn Rowden, Sharon Meeker, and Suzanne Petersen volunteered to review proposed legislation in light of LRAC's work and submit letters of comment as appropriate.

miscellaneous:

- Fred Lindahl will not be able to attend the meeting in February. He might be away in March, also.
- Dick Snow reported that he obtained the road salt data for Candia. The Candia road agent suggested that tracking application rather than lane miles might provide more meaningful data.

adjournment:

Fred Lindahl made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.