

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes January 28, 2016
Deerfield Town Hall**

APPROVED FEBRUARY 25, 2016

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews, Debbie McNelly (Raymond)

members absent: Michelle Daley Shattuck (excused)

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

guests: Jeannie Menard, Eric Bergland (Deerfield)

Meeting began at 7:04.

summary of motions:

Todd Piskovitz made a motion to send to the SEC the Northern Pass Project letter as drafted by Preston Samuel on LRAC letterhead to be signed by all LRAC members who chose to sign. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Motion passed with 11 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Carolyn Matthews made a motion that clarified that LRAC does not wish to be an intervenor in the Northern Pass Project, but that LRAC would offer technical advice and expertise to Deerfield. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from October 29, 2015:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Preston Samuel seconded. Minutes were approved with 12 yes votes and 1 abstention.

project review update:

Mendum's Pond dam repair: Work will be done in four phases. Permit application materials for Phase I should be ready in approximately two weeks, after the next meeting on February 4. Preston Samuel drove by the site and noted that two access roads to the site have already been built.

town issues:

- Raymond: recycling processing center under consideration for Raymond Industrial Park: Carolyn Matthews briefed the group about the site. The applicant will present his plan to LRLAC project review committee when he applies for the DES permit for a waste management facility. Carolyn will not be part of this

review. The project is “in the midst of public hearings”, so Carolyn could speak only to what is already in the public record. The site is located on Raymond Tax Map 28.4, lot 2 at 3 Otter Court. It is zoned as industrial and is adjacent to a residential area. It is currently owned by Pinard Waste Systems, and before that it was vacant, but it was formerly used as a cement plant and then a Blue Rhino propane distributor. The applicant, Pinard Waste Systems, has petitioned the town for a special exemption to be allowed to use the site as a recycling processing center which is allowed in the Raymond zoning ordinance and the special exception has been approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. It was determined that the proposed project “might have regional impact” due to its proximity to the Lamprey River. The next public hearing with the planning board is scheduled for February 4. The first hearing with the ZBA was taped and is available on Raymond Community TV.

- Epping: possible small shopping center on the northeast corner of Route 125 and Route 27: Initial discussion is to build 4 or 5 small retail shops, but no plans have been submitted to the planning board yet.
- Candia: Liquid Planet’s mortgage was foreclosed. The new owner wants to convert the site to a combination water park and adventure park. DES has an open action against the park pertaining to non-fulfilment of conservation easement issues. Dick Snow will monitor and report back.

management plan priorities for 2016:

- Dick Snow suggested that metrics be created to measure progress.
- Committee members, led by Sharon Meeker, suggested the following:
 - land protection: The Wild and Scenic subcommittee has limited funds available for projects. Creative ideas to maximize what is left of the funds are welcome.
 - water quality: The student who is compiling data will be preparing a one page flyer on pH and dissolved oxygen. He is scheduled to speak to the committee in February.
 - water quantity: The final instream flow management plan has been published and distributed by DES. The legislature is moving forward with its mandate for all designated rivers to have an instream flow management plan. Protection of lower order streams will be tricky; one rule for all will probably not work well, but an overall goal might be more realistic on the ground. Anyone who wishes to comment was encouraged to do so in person or in writing. These comments do matter!
 - project review: Continue to review and submit comments. Some members would like help in reading plans. A suggestion was made to contact Sylvia von Aulock at Southern NH Planning Commission to lead a training session.
 - wildlife: A watershed-wide culvert assessment is scheduled to take place to help identify priority projects. The updated *NH Wildlife Action Plan* will be presented on February 17 at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth.
 - recreation: We want to encourage people to visit the river, but do so with respect for the land and landowners. It was noted that DES has a full list

of access points including pertinent notes such as parking availability and accessible area. Fish and Game probably has a similar database.

Northern Pass Project: Deerfield perspective: Jeannie Menard

Deerfield will be near the terminus of this immense project that begins at the Canadian border. Three committees in town have petitioned the state Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to be registered intervenors so that their concerns will be given proper attention and weight. The deadline to file as an intervenor is February 5, 2016. In addition to being an intervenor, citizens and groups can air their concerns by attending a public hearing or by submitting oral or written comments to the SEC.

Preston Samuel shared his concerns and showed photographs concerning two electric power projects in Deerfield that were undertaken recently. Both permits were reviewed by the project review working group. In both cases, the proponent did not follow best management practices regarding erosion control and secondary impacts to wetlands. Impacts to wetlands were significant. This information has been shared previously with DES and the Town of Deerfield in the recent round of permit applications for the Northern Pass Project itself. As was agreed to by the committee in October, Preston drafted a letter to the SEC noting concerns with the potential effects of the project on aesthetics, local history and economics, landscape ambiance as well as the impunity with which electric projects are undertaken without regard to usual minimization of impacts to communities that other large projects are required to follow.

Joe Foley made a motion to send the letter as drafted by Preston Samuel to the SEC. Dick Lord seconded. The chair refused to accept the motion. One member left in protest as a result of this. Discussion ensued. No vote was called and no decision was reached.

Todd Piskovitz made a motion to send to the SEC the Northern Pass Project letter as drafted by Preston Samuel on LRAC letterhead to be signed by all LRAC members who chose to sign. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Motion passed with 11 yes votes and 1 no vote.

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adjournment: Anne Lightbody made a motion to adjourn. Todd Piskovitz seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40.