

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED MAY 8, 2018

Summary of Motions Passed:

Preston Samuel made a motion to terminate the maintenance contract for the office copier. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to renew the land protection account contract with the Southeast Land Trust. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the FY2019 budget as proposed. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Al Hall (Candia), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Cris Blackstone, Jerry Martin (Newmarket)

staff present: Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests present: Michal Zahorik

Meeting began at 7:00.

approval of minutes from February 13, 2018:

Dick Lord Made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Anne Lightbody seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

- Monthly expenses, year-to-date, and book sales were reviewed. The land protection account report was unavailable for review, but the treasurer has reviewed it and found everything is in order.
- The service contract for the office copier seems to be unnecessary. The machine is a durable, low-maintenance model that is currently making few copies per month. In five years, the machine has never been serviced. If it were to break or become otherwise inoperable, it could be replaced with a color home copier for about \$110.00. The LRAC owns the machine.

Preston Samuel made a motion to terminate the maintenance contract for the office copier. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- The land protection account contract with SELT needs to be renewed. No changes other than dates are recommended.

Al Hall made a motion to renew the land protection account contract with the Southeast Land Trust. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Land Protection Workgroup update:

The group reviewed four potential projects: two are active and two others would abut conservation land.

Recreation Workgroup update:

- On April 16, representatives from Trout Unlimited and LRAC will review sites between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls to make preliminary plans for improving canoe passage.
- The NHDoT has been requested to provide equipment assistance in the riprap area of the Route 87 bridge access area. Epping can provide retired curbing that could be added to the riprap area to make the canoe launch area safer, but the town does not have an excavator to stabilize the area and add curbing. NHDoT replied in a letter that it can probably provide some maintenance service, but did not commit to supplying an excavator. NHDoT also provided design plans for the old bridge and right of way which could clarify what NHDoT owns and what the Town of Epping owns. Preston will continue to seek assistance. It was suggested that an outside contractor could probably provide the equipment and labor for about \$2000.

Outreach Workgroup update:

- A Small Grant application from Newmarket Recreation was discussed and approved. The goals of the grant are to increase participation in the Splash and Dash, offer participants a structured program for training for a 3K race, improve paddler safety, and help participants understand the natural and historic resources of the river and the threats to those resources.
- A litter pick-up and nature activities event is planned for April 21 at Mary Blair Park in advance of the Annual Lamprey River Canoe Race sponsored by the Epping Lions.

History Workgroup update:

Work on two kiosks is progressing slowly.

Project Review Workgroup update:

One shoreland permit application was reviewed for a project in Nottingham. The proponent desires to replace a seasonal structure located on the southwest shore of North River Pond. The new structure will be substantially within the footprint of the existing structure except for a small addition on the north side. A new septic system and well will be provided and an existing dug well will be removed. One set of stairs from the front deck will not be replaced, making the plan somewhat more nearly conforming to Shoreland regulations.

No major concerns were noted. Given sandy, dry soils, it was recommended that steps be taken to ensure foot traffic to the water does not cause erosion.

Water Quality Workgroup update:

The student analyst will give a rehearsal presentation for the WG group on Friday in preparation for the undergraduate research conference on April 18.

Wildlife Workgroup update:

- Preliminary research for a bat population assessment continues. One local consulting firm could offer us 10-20 detector nights for an amount currently available in the wildlife budget. It was suggested that we include research into long-eared bat grant money that might be available and determine whether other bat studies are being conducted in the area before we contract with a researcher.
- Wildlife trail cameras will be deployed on April 12 in Epping, one at the wildlife tunnel. It was reported that a recent wildlife conference included data about wildlife tunnels in NH and that animals are using them under certain conditions. The representative reporting this will try to locate the research. A suggestion was made that UNH wildlife students might be helpful in reviewing images from the trail cameras.

National Park Foundation grants:

Three applications were submitted on behalf of Epping, Newmarket, and Nottingham. Jim MacCartney reported that none was selected in the main round of awards, most probably because they would not be completed in this 50th anniversary year. Over 80 applications were received asking for \$3.6 million, with about \$300,000 available. All three of ours have been placed on a waiting list. Jim noted that it might be wise for the group to review each grant application, rate the merits and shortcomings of each, and then select one as a priority project in case money does become available.

FY 2019 Budget:

Jim MacCartney has prepared a draft budget with a total of \$105,000, up slightly from FY 2018. A few changes were noted: Outreach Small Grants have been eliminated, but Community Grants have been inserted. Land protection has been given line items for acquisition-related costs and for land protection administrator work. It was noted that costs for liability insurance are rising and warrant re-evaluation. It was also noted that costs for audits seem high given the low overall budget.

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the FY2019 budget as proposed. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

UNH graduate student research:

Michal Zahorik introduced himself and his project in qualitative research. He is observing LRAC as an assignment of a community group. He shared a survey for which several members contributed responses for a class project.

other:

It was suggested that LRAC create a list of “shovel ready” projects that would serve as good grant projects. These projects would be well-planned and feasible, have designs and permits ready for implementation, and might need only to have costs updated for a grant proposal. Projects should have a range of costs that would better suit grants that offer specific award categories. The group agreed to reserve half of the May LRAC meeting to brainstorm and start work on this list.

adjournment:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to adjourn. Al Hall seconded. Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:07.