

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes April 28, 2016

Exeter Public Library 7:00 pm

APPROVED MAY 26, 2016

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

members absent: Anne Lightbody (excused), Debbie McNelly

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

guests: Colin Lawson and Joel DeStasio, Trout Unlimited

Meeting began at 7:00.

presentation: Lamprey River Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project update, Colin Lawson and Joel DeStasio

This was largely a review of an earlier presentation from May 2015 about adding woody material to streams and addressing undersized culverts.

New items this year include the following:

- Three projects to add wood in the North River are planned for this summer. The sites are on first and second order streams that do not accommodate kayakers.
- Before and after water quality tests will be performed at each site.
- All have a desired goal of changing the hydrology from smooth and featureless to a series of small blockages and riffle pools.
- No channel migration has been observed at any site yet, but it is being monitored.
- A hydrologist is under contract to assess approximately 55% of all stream crossings in the middle and upper Lamprey River watershed this summer. The Wild and Scenic subcommittee is considering a supplementary study that would include all stream crossings in the town of Epping and provide outreach to the town as a pilot study

approval of minutes from March 24, 2016:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended (adding that the Oyster River LAC and UNH students were present). Al Hall seconded. Minutes were approved with 9 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

work group and subcommittee updates: (For details, see work group meeting notes at end.)

- history: An industrial archaeologist has been contracted to analyze the former Sullivan Falls mill site in Durham.
- land protection: The project in Durham has closed; the project in Epping is close to closing, and one new project in Lee has been added.
- recreation: Two passive recreation grants have been awarded:
 - Newmarket will place kayak racks at Piscassic Park and Schanda Park to hold town-owned kayaks and have them available for use by the recreation department and residents.
 - Raymond will be designing and installing signage for a nature trail. Raymond representative Carolyn Matthews thanked the outreach specialist for helping to smooth the way for the Raymond project.
 - Sharon Meeker and Dawn Genes are organizing a family paddle on June 26, 1-3 at the Lee Public Canoe Launch on Route 152 in Lee. This is part of the Lee 250th celebration.
- outreach:
 - “Herring Aid” will take place on May 7 in Newmarket.
 - A septic system outreach event with a wide range of speakers will take place on May 14 at the Durham Public Library.
 - Several presentations are planned for the Candia Public Library.
 - All representatives were asked to forward upcoming town events to Sharon Meeker so that LRAC can set up its booth.
 - The 20th anniversary of the Lamprey’s designation as Wild and Scenic is this year. Sharon Meeker is planning a celebration for September 11. Stay tuned for more details.
- project review:
 - April reviews included revisions to New England Dragway’s alteration of terrain permit application, a wetlands application concerning bridge repairs in Raymond, and a letter regarding the Mendum’s Pond Dam repair.
 - The May meeting will cover preliminary plans for a major development along the Lamprey at the intersection of Rte. 125 and Rte. 27 in Epping.

town updates/issues:

- Raymond: LRAC Representative Debbie McNelly has been appointed to the conservation commission.
- Candia: The ZBA is working on an application for a sand and gravel operation adjacent to Raymond. Raymond can and will be involved if Candia indicates that the project is one of “regional impact.” Without that, Raymond will not be able to weigh in.

Mendum’s Pond Dam update:

Dick Snow is attending monthly progress meetings at the work site. The project is paying attention to the historic features and is aware of our concerns that this resource not be impacted. Sharon Meeker suggested inviting the archaeology department at UNH to assess the site and potential resources there.

Northwood Pond Dam update:

Dick Snow would like the state to revisit its decision to leave the pond with a lower level following recent dam repairs. The committee will meet in Northwood in May to discuss.

Northern Pass Project:

The lawyer from the state attorney general's office has not yet held a meeting for registered intervenors or town conservation commissions. This situation needs to be monitored.

legislative tracking:

Carolyn Matthews reported that the bill concerning instream flow management is going smoothly with the exception of concerns from the NH Ski Association regarding riparian landowner rights to use river water. Carolyn did not feel their concerns would significantly hinder the progress of the bill.

miscellaneous:

- Tracie Sales has been named manager of the rivers and lakes management and protection program. All agreed she should be able to tackle to the job competently.
- Todd Piskovitz announced that he will be leaving LRAC to pursue a more active role in the conservation commission in Exeter. The committee thanked him for his dedicated service to the committee as a whole and his leadership in the project review subcommittee.

adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes April 12, 2016

Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road 7:00 P.M.

DRAFT

representatives present: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel

staff/affiliates present: Laurel Cox, Duane Hyde, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Dawn Genes

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to amend the history line-item on the FY2016 budget from \$2000 to \$5000 and to authorize the chair to sign the proposed Phase I archaeological contract for Sullivan Falls for up to \$5000. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to add \$2000 to the water quality line-item on the FY 2016 budget to pay for two new turbidity meters for LRWA's water quality testing and help LRWA cover printing and mailing costs for the LRWA newsletter. Sharon Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion that any unencumbered funds under Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 between the National Park Service and the Lamprey River Watershed Association as of September 21, 2016 shall be transferred to the Lamprey River Land Protection Fund currently administered by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to authorize the Lamprey River Advisory Committee bookkeeper to submit a payment request to be settled on or before September 21, 2016 for all remaining funds in Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 between the National Park Service and the Lamprey River Watershed Association to assure that all outstanding and anticipated expenses are paid, including but not necessarily limited to contracted specialist(s) expenses incurred during September but payable in October and including the final payment to the Lamprey River Land Protection Fund previously authorized. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the FY 2017 budget as proposed. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from March 8, 2016:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Preston Samuel seconded. Minutes were approved with 4 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

The reconciliation and year-to-date reports for the operating budget were shared and no discrepancies were noted. The land protection fund report was not available. Preston Samuel will contact the SELT director to clarify the details of a project for which \$141,000 was reserved but only +/- \$137,000 was spent.

non-public land protection session:

Dick Lord made a motion to enter a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-3-A and to include LRAC staff and affiliates. The following members voted yes: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Kitty Miller, and Preston Samuel. Sharon Meeker recused herself.

Thompson Forest stewardship plan:

Ellen Snyder submitted a proposal to undertake some additional wildlife surveys for this May and June and a limited hand-pull of invasive plants to be undertaken in June and July. The committee agreed that the Town of Durham, as property owner, should pay for invasive plant removal. Approval of the wildlife survey will be the responsibility of the wildlife workgroup under its current budget.

Sullivan Falls archaeology study:

Dick Lord has been in contact with Victoria Bunker requesting a proposal to do a Phase I archaeology study. Her proposal was reviewed by the history work group and it recommended approval. **Dick Lord made a motion to amend the history line-item on the FY2016 budget from \$2000 to \$5000 and to authorize the chair to sign the proposed Phase I archaeological contract for Sullivan Falls for up to \$5000. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Lamprey River Watershed Association request for water quality testing support:

Dawn Genes thanked the committee for its annual \$5000 support for water quality testing. She noted that two turbidity meters need to be replaced this year. She can procure them through NHDES at cost. Each meter is \$787.00. She also noted that printing and mailing the LRWA newsletter, which includes news from LRAC, is expensive and any financial support would be appreciated. **Dick Lord made a motion to add \$2000 to the water quality line-item on the FY 2016 budget to pay for two new turbidity meters for LRWA's water quality testing and help LRWA cover printing and mailing costs for the LRWA newsletter. Sharon Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

operating budget fiscal year-end transfer:

Dick Lord made a motion that any unencumbered funds under Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 between the National Park Service and the Lamprey River Watershed Association as of September 21, 2016 shall be transferred to the Lamprey River Land Protection Fund currently administered by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to authorize the Lamprey River Advisory Committee bookkeeper to submit a payment request to be settled on or before September 21, 2016 for all remaining funds in Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 between the National Park Service and the Lamprey River Watershed Association to assure that all outstanding and anticipated expenses are paid, including but not necessarily limited to contracted specialist(s) expenses incurred during September but

payable in October and including the final payment to the Lamprey River Land Protection Fund previously authorized. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

stream crossing assessment update:

Jim MacCartney shared that NH Fish and Game has selected Fitzgerald Environmental of Vermont to undertake the assessment scheduled for this field season. The grant does not include outreach. 40-50% of road stream crossings in the Lamprey River watershed, including the headwaters and middle sub-watershed and selected cold water streams, will be studied. Each will be reviewed for geomorphic and infrastructure vulnerability and aquatic organism passage. Recommendations for appropriate pipe size will be included. Colin Lawson of Trout Unlimited suggested that LRAC commit additional funds so that all of Epping's culverts can be assessed and serve as a centrally located pilot project town in which to do focused outreach next year. LRAC is being asked to fund the difference from its operating budget.

After lively discussion, the matter was referred to the wildlife workgroup for consideration under its existing line-item in the FY 2016 budget.

FY 2017 proposed operating budget:

Line –item changes from FY 2016 are as follows:

- addition for grant acquisition and administration
- removal of worker's compensation
- addition of passive recreation expansion for existing parks (Call to Action grant)
- addition of stream crossing assessment and community outreach

Total operating budget is \$98,000, up from FY 2016 \$83,000.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the FY 2017 budget as proposed. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Outreach, History, and Recreation Meeting Notes April 6, 2016

attending: Preston Samuel, Kitty Miller, Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Debbie McNelly, Suzanne Petersen, Laurel Cox

guest: Ernie Creveling, Town of Raymond

discussion with Ernie Creveling regarding Raymond's Passive Recreation Grant proposal

The preliminary proposal is to utilize the area near the Lamprey River Elementary School as an ecocenter to include a nature trail with 12 interpretive signs and 2 kiosks. Detailed maps were shared showing the proposed route. The full project is estimated to cost \$57,164.00. Volunteers and local donations are realistically expected to cover a significant proportion of the total cost. Ernie was encouraged to define what piece the grant could reasonably cover in the context of the full project. He is aware that the due date is April 20.

Sullivan's Falls archaeology

Dick shared a proposal from Victoria Bunker to identify and record industrial mill components. A significant piece of the proposal covers the gathering of historical

documents. It was felt that much of this work has already been done by the Durham Historic Association (DHA). The DHA would like to see W&S money spent on gathering fresh information such as through test pits, but the group agreed that Victoria should be allowed to do her own research to verify existing research to her professional comfort level. The deliverable this year should be a Phase I evaluation by September 1.

Lee Trail development

Laurel and Sharon shared that Lee is considering applying for a grant to help with some component of the overall plan, either planning for the Little River Trail or creation of a base map showing possible connections with Barrington and/or Durham trails. Money from the Small Grants and left-over funds from the Lamprey River Trail Call-to-Action grant are available.

culvert assessment update

Jim shared that NH Fish and Game has selected Fitzgerald Environmental of Vermont to undertake the assessment scheduled for this field season. The grant does not include outreach. 40-50% of the upper watershed culverts will be studied. Each will be reviewed for geomorphic and infrastructure vulnerability and aquatic organism passage. Colin Lawson of Trout Unlimited suggested that LRAC commit additional funds to Epping so that all its culverts be assessed and serve as a centrally located pilot project town in which to do focused outreach. LRAC could fund the difference from its operating budget or it could seek grant funding through an aquatic organism passage grant.

Chick and DeeDee update

The latest revisions are in and ready for final comments. Publishing with the illustrator will cost \$800 for 100 books and \$1450 for 200 books. Lead time is 4-5 weeks.

miscellaneous quick updates

- Herring Aid will take place May 7 at Macallen Dam.
- Septic system outreach will take place on May 14 at the Durham Public Library. Speakers have been arranged and children's activities are planned for the children's area.
- The draft policy and procedure for handling reports of environmental violations will be emailed to the working group members for final comments. It is hoped that we can present it at the next full LRAC meeting.
- The "20 Years of Lamprey River Advisory Committee Success" report is well under way.
- Preston noted that Dawn needs some replacement water quality testing equipment; \$11,500 is available in the water section of the budget.

Recreation (& Outreach) Work Group Meeting Notes April 20, 2016

present: Laurel Cox, Dick Lord, Debbie McNelly, Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel

Epping Canoe Race, April 23:

Dawn Genes and Sharon will bring displays to the starting area at Mary Blair Park. Debbie offered to help.

Newmarket canoe portage:

Preston will do a site survey and draft a proposal for safe access,

Lamprey River Footpath:

No updates to report.

Lee Trails:

The trail committee has drafted key items for the master plan. The stated goal is to “Establish a low impact, interconnecting system of trails to link the neighborhoods of Lee and surrounding towns to enhance the history, recreation and transportation options, and healthy quality of life of the town.” The draft will go to the master plan committee soon for review. Laurel suggested posting a link to the proposed Lamprey River Footpath that visitors to the Lee website could access on the LRAC website. Suzanne will forward this.

A discussion followed about how LRAC could help with this effort. The Little River Park is in need of trail planning and site GIS mapping. Preston offered to walk the paths and gather the GIS data. Another possibility is to have the Strafford Regional Planning Commission map potential links to trails in neighboring towns. SRPC is holding \$1400 of LRAC money (unspent from the footpath feasibility study) for purposes such as these and the money needs to be spent by June. Laurel, Sharon, and Preston will try to meet with the trails committee on Friday to draft a proposal.

Lee 250th Family Paddle, June 26, 1-3:

- Dawn Genes will be coordinating.
- Town of Lee will provide liability insurance and handle registration via phone.
- An event permit is required from the NH Marine Patrol. Lee police might be needed for safety along Rte. 152.
- LRAC and LRWA volunteers will handle the event itself: getting waivers signed, helping participants to get in and out of the water, etc.

Passive Recreation Grants:

Newmarket: kayak racks for Schanda and Piscassic parks

Background: Newmarket Recreation owns 20 single kayaks and 2 tandem kayaks for public use. They are currently stored at the recreation department. Very few residents can get the boats to the water and town recreation groups also have limited use. Storing the boats next to the water would greatly facilitate use by both recreation programs and the general public. The proposed storage sites are to be located on land under the jurisdiction of the Newmarket Conservation Commission.

A total of \$4889.60 was requested to buy 4 kayak racks (each capable of holding 6 boats), 24 locks, and 2 signs. The racks and boats will be placed on site for the paddling season and moved to the recreation center for winter storage.

Included in the application package was an email from Drew Kiefaber from the conservation commission to town administrators dated April 14, 2016:

“The Conservation Commission gave conditional approval for two racks (each holding 6 kayaks) at each site. The conditional part is where I am asking for your help. We need to make sure that placing the racks does not violate any restrictions or permitting needs. Specifically, three concerns were raised:

1. Are there any legal/deed restrictions on the Schanda and/or Sliding Rock Park properties that would prohibit placing non-permanent boat racks on the properties?
2. What if any are the statutory buffer distances from the Lamprey River and Piscassic Rivers for non-permanent structures?
3. What if any permitting would be required for non-permanent structures in proximity to the Lamprey and Piscassic Rivers?”

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the application for funding contingent on obtaining satisfactory answers to the questions posed by the conservation commission. Dick Lord seconded. Sharon Meeker offered an amendment to request assurances that placement of the kayak racks not interfere with kiosks that are also placed at these sites. Dick Lord seconded. The motion and amendment were passed unanimously by the four Lamprey River Wild and Scenic representatives present.

Raymond: Lamprey River Eco-Center at the Lamprey River Elementary School

Background: The proponent wishes to formalize a nature trail at the school by adding 12 interpretive signs and a kiosk. This trail would serve the needs of local school children during school hours, but be available to the general public outside of normal school hours. The town planner, a certified soil scientist and licensed professional forester, has surveyed the site and recommended a few changes to the existing trail to reduce environmental impacts and increase accessibility. This project is part of a larger project to establish an eco-center that includes the nature trail and access for non-motorized water craft.

Budget: A total of \$5000 is requested for the purchase of interpretive signs and a kiosk. The Raymond Conservation Commission has voted to commit \$5000 toward the project and a \$1500 community grant has been authorized by the Walmart Distribution Center. The total operating budget for the project is, therefore, \$11,500. The total cost of the 12 interpretive signs is \$10,800 and the cost for the kiosk is \$2200. This totals \$13,000.

The application package included the grant application and maps showing the proposed project, including the location of interpretive signs, the kiosk, and areas where existing trail will be discontinued and alternative paths created.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the grant application with the stipulation that the town commit to opening the trail to the public by September 1, 2016. Dick Lord seconded. Discussion ensued:

- **The total amount that LRAC, the conservation commission, and Walmart are expected to provide is \$11,500, but the total cost is \$13,000. How or from what source will that unbudgeted \$1500 be acquired? Will the project go forward without the full amount available? The committee wants assurances that the project will go forward and that all signs and the kiosk will be invoiced and installed by September 1, 2016.**
- **The committee would like documentation from the conservation commission that it agrees to provide \$5000 (a copy of the approved meeting minutes will suffice) and documentation from the Walmart Distribution Center that it will provide \$1500.**
- **The title of the project, "Town of Raymond—Lamprey River Eco-center" does not reflect the nature of the grant being sought. The committee would prefer a title that reflects a request for funding for purchase, design, and installation of interpretive signage for the nature trail. The application as a whole should also reflect this focus.**
- **The committee would like the applicant to submit a revised application that addresses the committee's concerns. It shall be submitted not later than noon on Thursday, April 28. In fairness to the applicant, the committee will hold an emergency meeting to review the application and render its decision.**

Sharon Meeker withdrew her motion.

school programs:

Sharon noted that three schools have made a commitment to use the curriculum this year.

Lamprey Wild and Scenic 20 year celebration:

Sharon shared a draft proposal for the celebration. The theme will be defining a “sense of place” for the Lamprey River watershed by focusing on the history of the area.

- potential venues: Thompson Inn (outdoor only, liability certificate add-on required), Newmarket Mills meeting space, Lee Grange
- program: open house/visiting hours with one planned presentation by Dick Lord on Sullivan Falls
- amenities: art of the Lamprey with a focus on photography, LRAC timeline and images of major accomplishments, water-theme music, apple pies, coffee, tea, cider
- invited guests: probably 100 invited with the expectation that 50 or so will attend, including landowners who have established conservation easements, NPS liaisons, and LRWA/LRAC activists. Local historical societies and riparian landowners will also be invited.
- budget: probably less than \$500

National Park Service Community Assistance in Conservation & Outdoor Recreation

Email describing opportunity for technical assistance was sent from NPS and shared. Suzanne suggested that LRAC seek assistance to develop a tour guide and map for the upper watershed similar to the tour guide and map already available for the W&S section. Deerfield got a Small Grant from us in 2010 to develop a town-wide trail network. Raymond has just recently formed a trails committee. When Suzanne spoke with the Raymond town planner about the nature trail passive recreation grant, she also mentioned this opportunity and he was open to the idea of working with LRAC on this project. The members present indicated an interest in pursuing this opportunity. Suzanne will contact Deerfield to gauge interest there and seek more formal support from Raymond about joining the effort.

Project Review Meeting Notes April 7, 2016

attending: Preston Samuel, Todd Piskovitz, Sharon Meeker, Dick Snow, Al Hall, Suzanne Petersen

projects covered:

bridge abutment repair, Route 107, Raymond, wetlands permit

Raymond NH. The existing bridge (#146/100) has a 94'-0" length and 65'-4" deck width. The proposed work consists of repairing the undermining at the north abutment by installing a concrete toewall and placing riprap. Work also consists of repairing the bridge bearings at both abutments.

See letter.

Mendum's Pond Dam repair, Nottingham & Barrington

See letter referring to meeting with Jim Gallagher in March.

New England Dragway, Phase III, Epping & Brentwood, AoT

See letter: responses to applicant's comments.