

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED JUNE 10, 2018

members present: Al Hall (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Ann Scholz (Northwood)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

brainstorming session on shovel-ready projects for potential grants:

Preston Samuel distributed a draft suggestion for addressing on-going pollution problems in Moonlight Brook, Newmarket.

- background: Moonlight Brook has had known *E. coli* issues since at least 1996. Current tests and observations indicate that human sewage is in the stream. This stream empties into the Lamprey River at Schanda Park, a site the town has been actively developing as a recreation hub. Two town kayak racks are located right next to the stream and Schanda Park is the start and finish of the Lamprey River Splash and Dash. In addition, the park hosts a summer concert series.
- proposal: Create a process by which LRAC can be a catalyst for stream restoration.
 - Gather as much data and history as possible about the stream and efforts to address the issues. Data should include *E. coli* and nitrogen impairments.
 - Invite Michelle Shattuck from the UNH Water Resources Research Lab to make a presentation to LRAC that includes her data.
 - Meet with Newmarket officials to discuss their plans for the stream and openness to work with LRAC.
 - In cooperation with Newmarket, develop an agreement to hire a consultant to create a comprehensive restoration plan that can then be used to apply for shovel-ready grants that will address identified issues and opportunities for improvement. For nitrogen issues, suggest following the model that Dover used for Berry Brook restoration. The restoration plan for Berry Brook was approximately \$50,000.
 - Engage the town or LRWA to expand testing to document improvements or lack thereof.

approval of minutes from April 10, 2018:

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

financial report:

Monthly expenses, year-to-date, land protection, and book sales were reviewed. No issues were noted.

Preston Samuel announced that he will not seek re-appointment when his term ends in August. A new treasurer will need to be selected/elected. It was recommended that Vice Chair Dick Lord be added as a signer of checks.

land protection update:

Nothing new to report.

outreach, history, & recreation update:

The group met on May 2. No major issues were discussed.

project review:

Preston announced that he will not seek re-appointment when his term ends in August. A new project review chair will need to be selected.

Epping: WWTF, pre-application:

The Town of Epping offered preliminary plans for WWTF improvements. The group supports plans to ensure clean water in the river and will offer more specific project comments when an application is submitted.

Epping, Great Bay Drive industrial subdivision, AoT:

The proponent desires to construct a 5-lot industrial subdivision on land located on the south side of Route 27 and the north side of the Rockingham Recreation Trail in Epping. The project will be constructed in phases, with Phase 1 including road and utility construction and construction of two buildings nearest Route 27. Construction of additional buildings and stormwater control structures is reserved for the future. The application covers all phases of the desired construction.

The group noted very wet conditions on site and recommended that proper care and consideration be made for ensuring adequate grading and drainage so that run-off does not degrade water quality in receiving rivers.

Newfields: elevated boardwalk on conservation land, wetlands:

Proponent desires to construct an elevated boardwalk on wooden posts over former roadway to allow hikers to continue using a trail that has now been flooded due to beaver activity. The group advised only that the proponent follow-up as requested by NHB.

Newmarket: oyster bed restoration at mouth of Lamprey River, shoreland:

Proponent would like to restore various oyster reefs in and around the mouths of the Lamprey and Squamscott rivers. The proponent is also requesting permission to monitor the success of the restoration efforts over a period of not less than five years and up to ten years after completion of the restoration effort.

The group found no adverse effects of the proposed work. Comments focused on ensuring unencumbered navigation, clarifying any specific concerns of the Natural Heritage Bureau, and suggesting that the proponent be listed as a group of scientists/UNH office rather than an individual.

Newmarket: New Road drainage, response to applicant response:

Proponent indicates that the plan continues to allow house drains to discharge to Moonlight Brook. Comments focused on the on-going human waste problem in Moonlight Brook and the need to eliminate this source of pollution to a stream that discharges at Schanda Park, where paddlers put in for salt water tours on the Lamprey.

Newmarket: 12 Smith Garrison Road, shoreland:

Proponent desires to remove a swimming pool and replace it with a spa and screened porch. The group had no concerns.

Nottingham: Stage Road, house lot, shoreland:

Proponent desires to clear 5000 sq. ft. for a house and septic system. One small edge of the development cuts into the far edge of the shoreland buffer. The group had no concerns.

water quality update:

The UNH student is finishing his work on historic trends in turbidity, specific conductance, and *E. coli*. The next meeting is May 16. Future plans need to determine how best to use the data in an action plan.

wildlife update:

The group met with a bat researcher and discussed preliminary plans for an acoustic study to determine which species are present along the river. Data exist for several towns, but Epping, Raymond, and Nottingham are notable exceptions.

NHCF canoe access improvement grant update:

Representatives from LRAC, Trout Unlimited, and the National Park Service will tour the section of river on Friday and create a strategy for each blockage.

Macallen Dam improvements:

A public hearing will be held on May 16 in Newmarket regarding safety improvements, automating flood gates, and creating a pocket park at the top of the fish ladder. The town council has invited LRAC to comment. The outreach specialist will attend and offer LRAC's support of the pocket park concept depending on the tone of the meeting.

grant application from SCRP and Barrington re: updating the natural resource assessment and conservation action plan:

Copies of the grant application were sent via email to all representatives, but not all representatives reviewed it prior to the meeting. The application

proposal was not presented by a representative from SCRIP or Barrington, so LRAC questions could not be addressed.

LRAC representatives were asked to review the application and to indicate general support or non-support for continuing to consider funding the request. If enough support exists, the applicants will be invited to attend the June meeting to answer questions.

Granite Bridge Natural Gas Line project:

Political opposition to the project is present and rumors are being spread that permits have already been issued. LRAC is being asked to join in opposing the project. NHDES has verified that no permit applications have been received and no permits have been issued. LRAC will have the opportunity to review the applications and make comments as per normal protocol. It was agreed that LRAC wishes to remain neutral at this time.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Joe Foley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.