

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2017  
Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road 7pm**

**APPROVED JUNE 13, 2017**

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Al Hall, Kitty Miller (excused), Elizabeth Dudley (excused), Michelle Shattuck (excused), Deb McNelly (excused)

guests: Sam DeMerritt (LRWA), Matt Carpenter (NHF&G), Evan Fitzgerald and Evelyn Boardman (Fitzgerald Environmental Associates), Colin Lawson (Trout Unlimited)

Meeting began at 7:05.

**summary of motions:**

**Dick Lord made a motion to amend the contract with Trout Unlimited for work related to improving canoe passage along the main stem Lamprey River between the Route 87 bridge in Epping and Wadleigh Falls by increasing the “not to exceed” amount from \$5824.00 to \$6200.00. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously among Wild and Scenic representatives.**

**presentation by Matt Carpenter, Evan Fitzgerald, and Evelyn Boardman on results of stream crossings assessment:**

background:

- In 2010, NH Fish and Game undertook a fish survey of the Lamprey River and tributaries. Several high priority fish habitat areas were identified, as well as several issues that might affect fish habitat. Stream crossings were noted as significant contributors negatively affecting fish habitat.
- LRAC donated \$15,000 to NH Fish and Game to undertake an assessment of stream crossings that would complement work undertaken by NH Geologic Survey. At this point, almost all stream crossings in the Lamprey River watershed have been assessed. Both the NHGS and the recent Fitzgerald assessments use the same protocols, so the two data sets are compatible and both are accessible to and by NHGS.

results:

- 126 sites were visited and assessed for geomorphic compatibility; potential for flooding/failure to handle 2, 25, 50, and 100 year storms; and ability to allow free passage of aquatic organisms.
- Most stream crossings should be able to handle 2 year storms, but most will probably fail to handle 25 year storms.
- Maps for each town and subwatershed were produced that show the risk level for each stream crossing.

next steps:

- Although aquatic passage is important ecologically, most towns do not have the ability to address this concern by itself. They must focus on protecting infrastructure, meeting the needs of citizens and emergency responders, and other more immediate concerns to people. They are constrained by tight budgets.
- Town-owned culverts are almost always paid for by town revenue, with little or no assistance from the state or federal government. Statewide, approximately 60% of stream crossings are impaired.
- Trout Unlimited has received a significant grant from the NH Charitable Foundation to help municipalities understand stream crossing issues and improve flood resiliency. Colin is conducting workshops for clusters of town conservation commissions, planning boards, select boards, and road agents to create regional working groups. When towns prioritize stream crossings and these sites coincide with potential aquatic passage improvement areas, grants for improving aquatic passage can also be used for improving safety or other town concerns.

approval of minutes from April 11, 2017:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sharon Meeker seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

The bank statement, year-to-date budget, book sales, and land protection activity were reviewed. Nothing unusual was noted.

workgroup updates:

land protection:

The project in Epping is moving slowly. The next step is getting an appraisal.

outreach:

There have been many presentations at schools, libraries, senior centers, and vernal pools in the past month.

recreation:

The contract between Trout Unlimited and the National Park Service is still being reviewed and tweaked. Trout Unlimited announced that its indirect

costs have been increased from \$0.14 to \$0.16, resulting in an increase to the original proposal by approximately \$156.00.

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history: Nothing new to report.

project review:

The alteration of terrain application for the Marston Sports Complex in Nottingham was reviewed:

- Several omissions and labeling errors were noted.
- Passage through/over a wetland was proposed; group recommended avoiding this if at all possible.
- A proposed ADA trail along a steep bank was noted, but significant details were missing.
- Concern was noted that the vast areas of playing fields will require significant fertilizing, irrigation, and probably soil enhancements to existing conditions, but no details or maintenance plans were included.
- Stormwater from part of the site will bypass treatment areas and should be addressed so that the river and wetlands are not degraded.

water quality:

The group has not met recently, but enthusiasm is high to resume work.

- A student has been identified to continue the job of compiling data for an overall assessment that will be accessible and useful to the public.
- A summary report was drafted last year and needs further refinement before release to the public.

wildlife:

The workgroup chair has been ill, so no meeting was held this month.

town updates:

- Raymond: An 86 acre subdivision project is being planned for the Exeter River watershed. Abutters and the Exeter River LAC are actively monitoring the planning process.
- Brentwood: A conservation project by SELT is moving forward.
- Durham: Public input is being sought as the town revises its land use chapter in the master plan.
- As part of town updates, the group was eager to discuss the stream crossing report and how LRAC could help get the assessment into the

hands of people who can take action to improve the situation as well as foster better coordination among towns.

- The report will be emailed to all representatives. Everyone was asked to read the report from both a town perspective and LRAC perspective. How can LRAC help to create a link between towns and Trout Unlimited?
- Would this be an opportunity for outreach potentially funded by a Small Grant?
- We should make sure towns have all the data available, both from the recent Fitzgerald report and recently completed NHGS data.

grants update:

- The \$1000 grant application to the American Canoe Association for improving canoe passage between the Route 87 bridge and Wadleigh Falls was denied.
- The \$2500 grant application to Outdoor Nation to improve public paddling in Epping is still in review. The original determination date of May 8 had to be extended due to the number of applications received.

other:

signs:

It was noted that LRAC was not included as a significant donor on the Thompson Property sign. Dick Lord will discuss this with the Durham land steward and suggest pursuing a kiosk for the site entrance.

statewide LAC meeting, Saturday, May 13:

Preston Samuel, Sharon Meeker, and Carolyn Matthews plan to attend. LRAC has been asked to make a short presentation on outreach efforts.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers workshop will be held July 9-13 in Westfield, Mass.

Suzanne Petersen and Mary Ann Krebs indicated an interest in attending.

Mast Way School in Lee has requested LRAC help for students doing research on Lamprey River animals.

Volksmarch:

It was noted that Raymond has a walking group that might be willing to help coordinate or advise with logistics.

Dick Lord and Cynthia Kelsey offered to help if the project can get some traction with other potential helpers.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.