

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 26, 2016

Candia Town Hall 7:00 pm

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee),

members absent: Anne Lightbody (excused), Michelle Shattuck (excused), Carolyn Matthews (excused), Debbie McNelly (excused),

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:10.

project review quick meeting:

The committee was notified that Trout Unlimited has applied for an expedited wetlands permit to improve biodiversity and enhance instream habitat by placing large instream wood into the North Branch River in Deerfield. Because this stretch of river is not navigable, the group felt no comments were necessary. Preston Samuel will notify DES of same.

Next full meeting is June 2 at 7:00 in Lee. Projects to be reviewed include Governor's Run commercial development at the intersection of Route 125 and Route 27 in Epping.

approval of minutes from April 28, 2016:

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

Wild & Scenic, outreach, recreation, history work, project review group updates:

See notes attached at end.

water quality work group update:

Mark Kotowski has completed work analyzing and summarizing 23 years of data on dissolved oxygen, pH, and nitrates. These have been posted to www.lampreyriver.org under "about the river-- water quality" and "multimedia center--research" headings. Turbidity and specific conductance parameters were not included.

land protection:

An up-to-date map should be in process. The last map was updated in 2013.

municipality updates:

Candia:

Slate Sand and Gravel is asking the ZBA for a variance. The ZBA has not indicated that the proposed changes could result in a regional impact. Until a specific project is submitted for permits, LRAC is not in a position to submit comments.

Fremont:

Certain citizens are concerned about a potential asphalt crushing facility to be located near the Piscassic River. Preston Samuel is doing some literature research about the effects of this activity on aquifers and rivers. Lacking a specific proposal, no action is indicated at this time.

Mendum's Pond dam repair update:

Dick Snow has been attending worksite meetings. The staging area has been seeded. The roads to the site have been improved. Buttresses upstream of the dam are being built. No work downstream of the dam has begun yet. Half-way through this project, DES permits are still not in place.

Northern Pass project:

The Deerfield CC chair is concerned that DES does not seem to be listening to concerns about the project, although some recent DES permit conditions indicate that some concerns, such as installing gates to exclude ATVs and moving poles out of the protected shoreland, are being acknowledged. The date of decision has been moved to 2017.

June meeting:

Dick Snow is working on having the meeting in Northwood.

adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Al Hall seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53.

WORK GROUP MEETING NOTES

Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 10, 2016

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

DRAFT

representatives present: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel
staff/affiliates present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen
absent: Dick Lord

Meeting began at 7:05.

Summary of motions:

Preston Samuel made a motion to rescind the following motions from April 12, 2016:
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.

Sharon Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Anne Lightbody made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$5000.00 from Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 reserve funds for the purpose of contracting a Phase I archaeological assessment of Sullivan Falls. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne Lightbody made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$2000.00 from unencumbered Cooperative Agreement P11AC40845 funds for the purpose of purchasing two turbidity meters for use by the Lamprey River Watershed Association for water quality testing and to help LRWA cover costs for printing and mailing the LRWA newsletter. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Preston Samuel made a motion to table the Trout Unlimited stream crossings and outreach proposal for Epping until Joe Foley and Trout Unlimited can meet with Epping DPW and other officials to obtain their direct endorsement for usefulness of the proposal to Epping. Anne Lightbody seconded. Motion passed with 4 yes votes and 1 abstention.

financial report:

- Year-to-date, account reconciliation, and land protection reports were reviewed. All expenses were appropriate and were paid.
- During April's meeting, two motions were passed to amend FY 2016 line-item budgets to reflect approval of unbudgeted expenses, one for up to \$5000 for the Sullivan Falls Phase I archaeological assessment and one for \$2000 for turbidity meters and costs associated with the LRWA newsletter. The accountant cannot make these changes in accordance with NPS procedure. The money is available from past budgets and this should be the source for these expenses.

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- Preston Samuel noted an issue concerning the authority of work group chairs to approve the expenditure of Wild and Scenic funds for work group projects. With the recent approval by the W&S group for an expenditure from the water quality line of the budget, questions arose about the role and authority of non-W&S work group chairs. A representative from Brentwood is currently the chair of the water quality group. Several scenarios and possible procedures were discussed. The members present felt that W&S funds could be requested by a non-W&S work group chair, but that W&S members will determine if, when, and how those funds would be spent. Jim MacCartney offered to draft a policy for further discussion and a vote at the June W&S meeting.

approval of minutes from April 12, 2016:

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

education and outreach update:

- Sharon Meeker has met with four elementary school principals to elicit interest in the Lamprey River Curriculum, with a special invitation to observe Mast Way School's field trip this June. Most of the principals indicated contact needs to occur much earlier. Sharon will try again in the fall and will also try to engage teachers directly.
- "Herring Aid" with NH Fish and Game took place on May 7 at Macallen Dam. Despite raw weather, about 30 people attended. Fish counts were low compared to last year, but still much higher than nearby rivers. (F&G biologists indicated that lower than normal ocean temperatures were probably to blame.)
- Septic system outreach will take place on Saturday, May 14, 10-noon, in Durham. Partners include NHDES and Strafford Regional Planning.
- Raymond Conservation Commission has requested a presentation on vernal pools for May 25.
- Library presentations are being planned for Deerfield, Candia, and Epping.
- Metrics are being gathered and an outline formulated for the "Twenty Years of Success along the Lamprey River" report.
- The "Chick and Dee Dee" children's book is in the final stages of editing. The next step is to finalize details for a printing contract.

recreation update:

- Two Call-to-Action passive recreation grants have been awarded:
 - The Town of Raymond was granted up to \$5000 to design and install signage for its nature trail at the Lamprey River Elementary School/future Eco-center.
 - The Town of Newmarket was granted up to \$5000 for the purchase and installation of kayak racks and locking devices at Schanda Park and Piscassic Park for existing town-owned kayaks that are available for use by Newmarket Recreation programs and rental by residents.
- A combination recreation and outreach Small Grant has been awarded to the Town of Newmarket for assistance in establishing its annual 3km and ½ km kayak race. The race will take place August 20 on the tidal portion of the river, beginning and ending at Schanda Park.
- The newly formed Lee Trails Committee is eager to get started, including work on the proposed Lamprey River Footpath.

water quality update:

The analysis of the long-term data set on DO, pH, and nitrate is in the final stages. The final report should be submitted next week for review at UNH.

wildlife:

- At the request of the project review group, Kitty Miller is doing a site assessment of the proposed Governor's Run commercial development in Epping. She will visit again with a turtle specialist from NH Fish and Game.
- Ellen Snyder is conducting a bioinventory at the Thompson Forest in Durham as part of making recommendations for a passive recreation plan for the property.
- Last month the W&S committee deferred to the wildlife group on approval of a proposed plan by Trout Unlimited to augment the NH F&G stream crossings study by assessing all stream crossings in Epping and conducting outreach to help the town use the data. The group did not meet and, therefore, did not make a decision. The matter was once again taken up by the W&S committee. Some key concerns were aired regarding how useful this work would be to Epping. To date, little or no outreach to the DPW or planning board has occurred.

Kitty Miller made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$7800 for the purpose of contracting with Trout Unlimited to assess all stream crossings in Epping not assessed by NH F&G and for follow-up outreach to Epping to help them prioritize culvert work and inform them about grant opportunities. There was no second.

Preston Samuel made a motion to table the Trout Unlimited stream crossings and outreach proposal for Epping until Joe Foley and Trout Unlimited can meet with Epping DPW and other officials to obtain their direct endorsement in the form of a letter of support for usefulness of the proposal to Epping. Anne Lightbody seconded. Motion passed with 4 yes votes and 1 abstention.

land protection:

Laurel Cox reported that a residential development along the North River in Lee and Epping was being discussed by the towns.

adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Meeker seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Outreach Etc. Workgroup Meeting Notes May 4, 2016

present: Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Debbie McNelly, Suzanne Petersen

Sullivan Falls:

Dick reported that Janet Mackie's materials have been turned over to the contracted archaeologist. The next steps will include getting an industrial archaeologist on board and doing on-site measurements to ascertain building footprints and determine whether the falls could have supported an overshot water wheel or if an undershot or breast-height water wheel would have been required.

curriculum use by schools:

Sharon reported that she has met with several school principals, but none has indicated an interest in observing the Mast Way School field trip. Debbie suggested that contact in the fall would probably yield better results for the spring field trip.

Debbie will be working with Mast Way School fourth graders to prepare them and their teachers for the June 15 field trip. A few modifications have been made to the rotation of last year's study stations to help ensure that all students can visit each station. Suzanne requested that the chaperone for each group of students help keep track of time.

library programs:

Candia Public Library has requested several programs for children. Sharon will do one and Suzanne will cover the rest. We should consider working with a library to offer a Junior Ranger program to make use of this existing resource.

septic system outreach, May 14, 2016 at the Durham Public Library:

Items and information concerning septic systems have been placed in the library's entryway display case. All speakers have been lined up and confirmed. Specific topics will include the following: septic system basics (components, different styles, how they work, limitations, how to care for them), septic system failure, site considerations, regulatory issues, water quality issues associated with septic systems, what local towns are doing to address these issues, and reducing nitrogen loads to nearby waterways through a pilot project using permeable reactive barriers. Debbie will help out in the children's area by demonstrating the watershed model.

Herring Aid, May 7, 2016, Macallen Dam in Newmarket:

Publicity has been taken care of. Printed materials are ready. Signage is all set. The weather forecast looks good. Bring on the fish!

Newmarket Kayak Race Small Grant:

The application was sent out to all outreach and recreation workgroup members. Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the grant as presented. Dick Lord seconded. It was noted that Newmarket should verify that the town will own the logo and all rights to use it or modify it as they see fit. Suzanne will draft a memorandum of agreement.

upper watershed recreation map and tour guide:

Suzanne noted that Raymond and Deerfield have indicated interest in helping LRAC pursue technical assistance from the NPS to help produce this map and guide. Sharon recommended a good contact from Nottingham. Jim MacCartney is aware of the intention to pursue the grant and has forwarded questions to the New England NPS Trails and Water Trails representative. The application is due June 30, 2016.

Lee 250 family paddle:

Most of the basic issues surrounding liability, registration, and safety have been addressed. Sharon and Dawn Genes are still working on creating an objective, overall format (guided as a group or each family goes on its own), and activities to help engage participants.

LRW&S 20 year celebration:

Sharon continues to plan. Because the inn is technically not in operation yet, the owners are requiring LRAC to purchase liability insurance for the event which will be held on the inn's porch.

Suzanne reminded the group that the NPS has awarded the committee a grant to produce a 20 year success report. She will do the research and write the report, but she will need help with stories and photos from the early days. This report must be complete before September. Dick suggested that if any annual reports are missing from LRAC files, the Town of Durham will have them.

Chick and DeeDee:

The illustrator has made the changes requested and will mail the draft on May 5. The committee needs to consider the cost of publishing the book, so Suzanne will present next steps and the estimate of expenses for publishing at the next W&S meeting.

Recreation & History Work Group Meeting Notes May 18, 2016

present: Preston Samuel, Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen

Sullivan Falls:

Dick and three archaeologists visited the site recently and found the following:

- There probably were two dams.
- A ledge formation runs into the river.
- What appears to be a sawmill foundation is parallel with the river.
- Initial opinion is that the site was active in the 18th century and is fairly well preserved due to a lack of human disturbance following abandonment of the site.
- Next steps: dig a small pit in one of the foundations to determine its use, create a conceptual site plan, and locate dam possible anchors.

passive rec grants:

Joe Foley signed the 2 MoAs and they were mailed to Raymond and Newmarket. Sharon reported after the meeting that the MoA from Newmarket has been signed by the town manager.

Lee trails group:

The group will meet May 18 evening to tweak the trails section of the master plan. Sharon and Preston will attend.

Raymond trails group:

The trails group is informal with plenty of enthusiasm, but official leadership is lacking right now. The recently hired town planner had been a key piece, but he has left Raymond.

Newmarket kiosks:

We have heard nothing about replacements. Suzanne will check the sites on Monday when she goes for the kayak race meeting.

upper watershed passive rec map:

Suzanne met with the Deerfield Cons. Comm. last week and secured a commitment to support the project and application to NPS for technical assistance. She will meet with the Raymond Cons. Comm. on May 25 and they have indicated that they will also probably agree to a letter of commitment. No word yet from Nottingham.

W&S walking trail:

Nothing to report.

Lee 250th family paddle:

Volunteers are needed to handle registration, check in, etc. Preston offered to be the "safety engineer" on the water in his canoe. Suzanne will check with Dawn Genes about publicity needs.

Project Review Meeting Notes May 5, 2016

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

guests: Joe Coronati (Jones & Beach Engineers) and Jim Gove (wetlands consultant)

pre-application presentation of Governor's Run commercial & retail development, Route 125, Epping

background:

- 40 acres, currently undeveloped, formerly was a brick yard.
- Site is filled and graded, with wetlands created by past mining activities.
- Elm Street formerly ran across the site from the north to a former bridge at the southeast corner.
- A power line separates the front half of the lot from the back of the site.
- The front part of the lot is vegetated mostly by younger saplings with older trees in the back.
- Part of the property is located in the federally designated 100 year flood hazard zone (FEMA Community Panel dated May 17, 2005).

proposed development:

- Divide the front lot into three commercial lots with town water and sewer and one back lot to be further subdivided, served by town water and private septic system. Phase I will include development of the three front lots: car wash, retail with a drive-through (type of business not determined yet), and an indoor storage facility. Phase I will also include providing access for future development in the back lot. Phase II, not determined yet, will take place under a separate permit application and is serving as a place-holder.
- 14.6 acres of the property lies in the 250 foot shoreland setback area and will not be altered with the exception of 400 sq. ft. as part of the storage facility paved area. 900 sq. ft. of direct wetlands impacts will occur at the front entrance just south of Telly's and 1900 sq. ft. of direct wetlands impacts will occur as a result of providing access to the back lot.

wetlands and soils:

- Wetlands were surveyed in fall 2015 and again this spring. Few changes were noted from a previous survey done 10-15 years ago.
- Phase I proposed work will take place on highly disturbed area with poorly defined soil horizons. The best defined soils are in the vicinity of old foundations that will be removed to make way for the storage facility.
- The disturbed flood plain consists of old fields and cleared area. The forested floodplain is consists mostly of white pine and red maple. There is evidence of past attempts to slow stormwater exiting from the center of the site.
- Several vernal pools are located on site. The most productive are close to the river. A cluster of small vernal pools has developed in the excavated center of the site and these pools contain a few masses of wood frogs and spotted salamander eggs. Jim Gove characterized these pools as "not productive."

natural heritage inventory:

- Several "hits" were noted, including the following: brook floater mussel, red maple floodplain, Eggleweiss quill wort, Georgia bulrush, long-eared pondweed, American eel, and wood turtle.
- Amy Lamb at the bureau reportedly has few concerns. She did ask that special attention be paid to the Georgia bulrush, but Jim Gove could not find it- wrong season.

LRAC questions and concerns:

- Q: Why is the back lot being developed now, with no potential businesses in sight? A: NHDES wants all potential impacts addressed as one project review; they do not want to review multiple permit applications for the same site. The developer also wants to be able to market existing access to potential clients.

- Q: Sloped granite curbs are proposed. Do these direct all stormwater to treatment areas? A: "All stormwater will be captured."
- Q: Snow storage areas are indicated on the plans and snow melt is directed to treatment areas. Indicating this on the plan is fine, but these also need to be incorporated into the maintenance manual. A: Signage for snow plow drivers might also be considered.
- The vernal pool cluster could be seriously impacted by the proposed work; not just the pools themselves but also the surrounding uplands that support amphibians that do not live in water. The existing hydrology will probably be affected and the loss of even marginal vernal pool habitat can strain genetic flow among the amphibians that rely on these pools.
- Q: This work group has never encountered a project with so many natural heritage inventory hits. According to the NH Wildlife Action Plan, this site is rated as high value habitat. Studies conducted on this site starting in the 1990s indicate that this was "turtle heaven", but the most recent study, from the late 1990s, indicated that the rare turtles were gone. It was noted that the town sewer lagoons located on the adjacent parcel to the north, are frequented by more common turtles. Some careful ecological documentation and evaluation are needed on this site. LRAC would like to request that its resident wildlife expert, Kitty Miller, and F&G's herpetological expert, Mike Marchand, visit the site and compare what they find with the past site reports so that the site's actual and potential wildlife value be assessed accurately. A: Jim Gove is aware of the assessments from the 1990s and noted that the process for this site is by no means complete; however, the wetlands permit application will probably be filed within the next month. He and Joe Coronati are open to this study.

END OF DISCUSSION FOR GOVERNOR'S RUN

miscellaneous:

- Candia ZBA will be sending Raymond notice that the Slate Sand and Gravel project needs to be treated as a having a regional impact.
- Nottingham has notified LRAC that a 5 lot subdivision is being planned on the Little River. It was agreed that this alone does not require review by this group at this time. Dick Snow agreed to join the Nottingham Planning Commission on a site walk in the near future.
- Tonight was Todd Piskovitz's last with LRAC. The group thanked him for his service to the committee and his leadership in the project review group. The group wished him well on endeavors with the Exeter Conservation Commission.