

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2015 Deerfield Town Hall 6:30 pm**

**APPROVED AUGUST 27, 2015**

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Preston Samuel (Lee)

staff present: Suzanne Petersen

absent: All Hall (excused), Cynthia Kelsey (excused), Dick Lord (excused), Ann Welsh, Sharon Meeker (excused), Michelle Daley (excused), Carolyn Matthews (excused), Debbie McNelly

approval of minutes from May 28, 2015:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joe Foley seconded. Minutes were approved with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention.

work group updates:

outreach:

Small Grants approved:

- Lee Conservation Commission's plan to remove invasive plants at the Rothwell Reserve, \$2000
- LRWA's plan for a watershed-wide stream clean-up day, \$600
- LRWA's plan to document the process and results of a feasibility study to improve canoe passage by selective relocation of woody material: The plan as originally envisioned was to remove and relocate large woody material that was blocking canoe passage between the Route 87 bridge in Epping and Wadleigh Falls in Lee. A follow-up assessment in 2015 revealed extensive woody material that will not be easy or safe to remove. The process and evaluation tools that resulted should not be lost, so the amended proposal is to provide documentation of blockages that include photos of blockages, GPS coordinates, potential or actual ecological or recreational values, and summary of field findings to share with the National Park Service River and Trails Division. Total budget is \$1850.
- A plan to help Epping and Newmarket create a public stormwater project was discussed, but the applicant (LRWA) had not finished suggested revisions at the time of the Small Grants meeting. It has since been approved.

Chick and Dee Dee's Lamprey River Adventure; children's history and tour book:

Denise Brown has been selected as the illustrator and lay-out designer. Suzanne Petersen has sent her the draft text and suggested illustrations. They will meet to discuss W&S policy on work-for-hire copyright and basic pairing of LRAC vision and Denise's vision. Denise can revise her initial budget if necessary and then she will meet with the outreach group to finalize the contract.

Hike It, Bike It, Like It recreation and outreach series:

Hike It at Wiswall Falls had a half dozen adult attendees. Nobody showed up for Bike It in Lee or Like It at Mary Blair Park despite good publicity. We will try to combine these activities with town recreation events in the future.

recreation:

Preston Samuel reported on the feasibility study to create a foot path from Mary Blair Park to Newmarket.

The mapping contract with Strafford Regional Planning Commission has been signed, and we expect to see the first draft of the maps around the end of June. The maps will be scaled to allow each "town section" to be contained on five 24 x 36 inch sheets, with matchlines allowing them to be easily lined up. Sharon Meeker and Laurel Cox are making contacts with some of the larger land holders to judge their enthusiasm for the proposal. The campground owners in Lee who were contacted were "lukewarm at best", but did not shut the door entirely. Laurel has asked the Lee Conservation Commission to request the Planning Commission prepare maps of existing town trails similar to the maps already prepared for Durham. This would make our job of planning linkages easier if we go forward with future phases.

Last Sunday I walked Dimond Hill Road in Epping from Route 87 to the vicinity of Route 125. The first section of this is designated as a Class A Trail. The balance is, to my knowledge, a Class 6 road. There are two conservation parcels on the "river" side of the trail; one owned by SELT and one owned by USDA. The trail "sumits" Dimond Hill, then drops into a significant forested wetland in the vicinity of the power line crossing. This may give us trouble. The northerly portion shows signs of considerable off-road vehicle use. The good news is that there are existing snowmobile trails along and crossing the Class 6 Road. There may be opportunities to follow some of these trails to get around the wetlands. The northerly portion shows signs of considerable off-road vehicle use. I also noted that the snowmobile clubs maintain a light-duty bridge

across the North River at the 125 end (using the old North River Road bridge abutments), and the trail seems to follow both banks of the river both coming up from the Lamprey corridor and going back down. Does anyone have a contact with the Exeter Sno-Travelers, the group which maintains these trails?

water quality historic data:

Anne Lightbody's student continues to work with the data and presented his interim findings at the undergraduate poster session this past spring. He will be invited to share his results with the full committee.

project review:

The group reviewed one project, abutment repairs to a bridge on Route 43 in Deerfield. Preston Samuel's engineering review did not reveal any issues. He did suggest, however, that any road closures be planned to avoid times during the Deerfield Fair.

No new projects have been identified, so the regularly scheduled review session for July 2 has been cancelled.

old business:

events:

- July- Lee's 250 anniversary tube race? Enough water? What route? Organizer?
- July- Newmarket Oyster Festival and Old Home Day (Date unknown at this time. Held July 9 in 2014)
- Aug. 15- Deerfield Old Home Day (Sharon Meeker will contact town hall to register.)
- Aug. 22- Exeter Fall Festival, 10-4 at Swasey Park (Sharon has registration info.)

Woodman Brook (Durham) update:

Jake Poirier, an undergraduate working with Anne Lightbody, monitored water levels and turbidity at the seep on the tributary to Woodman Brook this spring. Perhaps due to the dry weather, turbidity levels were very low this year. A poster presented at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference was shared with committee members and is available on the website. This summer Jake will write up his spring observations into a report, which he will share with the full committee.

Northwood Meadow State Park dam repair:

Dick Snow indicated that he is very interested in using the dam repair as an opportunity to reach out to other local groups who have an interest in the park or water resources. Northwood apparently has a very active community of people who care about their lakes and could be strong allies.

Members present recognized the opportunity to recruit new members and to make connections, but noted concern that LRAC must not be seen as taking a political position in this case and that conversations should not begin with a pre-determined outcome or solution. An emphasis should be placed on making sure the area remains natural and accessible to the public.

**Emily Schmalzer made a motion to encourage Dick Snow to connect with other concerned parties to understand their issues while maintaining neutrality. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

woody material and canoe access:

LRWA has been approved for a Small Grant to summarize the LRWA-LRAC effort to perform a pilot project to remove at least one woody obstacle from the section of the main stem between Route 87 in Epping and Wadleigh Falls in Lee. After 1.5 years' effort, no obstacles have been removed and the scoring grid created to assess the positive and negative consequences of a particular proposed relocation remains in a draft and largely unusable form. Preston Samuel noted great frustration with the process and feels stonewalled.

In addition, as was noted in May's LRAC minutes, Trout Unlimited is trying to create and restore fish habitat by placing trees into some first and second order streams. Although projects in the main stem are not currently planned, Trout Unlimited is gearing up to create protocols for adding woody material that will attempt to redirect flow into a deeper, more narrow channel versus spreading out over a broad area. Preston noted serious concern that such measures might result in unsafe paddling conditions as well as the loss of certain stretches of popular white water opportunities.

Any deliberate placement of woody material in the river or tributaries should require a permit from DES and be subject to project review by LRAC. Even without any specific projects, Trout Unlimited should meet with LRAC and representatives of paddling interests to discuss concerns about recreation and uses of the river in addition to fish habitat. Since several projects are planned on NRCS land, representatives from NRCS should also be involved.

future meetings:

**Emily Schmalzer made a motion to conduct future meetings from 7 to 9 P.M. in the future. Joe Foley seconded. Motion passed with 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions.**

It was suggested and agreed to by consensus that the July meeting be cancelled.

Rivers Management and Protection Program-Lakes Management and Protection Program joint meeting:

Dick Snow reported that the rivers and lakes programs will be seeing some changes in the near future. First, Jacquie Colburn will be retiring from her position as director of the two programs. Tracie Sales will be the sole staff person in the foreseeable future. Ted Diers has suggested that the two separate programs might be integrated into a single watershed management and protection program. Any change of this magnitude will need to go before the legislature. The local advisory committees will have influence in determining the future direction of the programs.

adjournment:

Todd Piskovitz made a motion to adjourn. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.