

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

representatives present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Cris Blackstone (Newmarket)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Tracie Sales (NHDES), Jamie Fosburgh (NPS), NPS intern

Meeting began at 7:00.

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program presentation, Tracie Sales:

- NHRMPP updates:
 - A new position has been created, watershed coordinator, to offer watershed-based guidance on such issues as in-stream flow management.
 - A new part-time program assistant will be hired and should begin in late August.
- project review comments, what LACs should focus on:
 - local conditions that NHDES probably won't know: informal access points, water quality issues, history of erosion, popular fishing areas, history of contractors
 - actions that NHDES can act on
 - actions that LAC would like NHDES to act on
- designated river updates:
 - Warner River should be officially designated any time now.
 - Cochecho River LAC is back to a working-size group. Will need to develop a river management plan and might need LRAC's help.
- current activities:
 - developing more workshops for LAC representatives
 - celebrating 30th anniversary of NHRMMP
 - beefing up LAC representation
- wetland rules updates:
 - Pending legislation is a mess, with contradictory guidance.
 - Two possible major changes:
 - Expedited permit would no longer be reviewed by conservation commissions or LACs.

- For regular applications, LACs could request a 40 day extension for review, as conservation commissions currently can do.
- Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act:
 - Lamprey and Oyster rivers currently have exemptions from SWQPA rules regarding 1st - 3rd order streams that are part of the main stem of designated rivers. Adding these streams would add 26.71 miles of protected streams. The total of river miles in the designated Lamprey rivers is 100.46.
 - Changes in 2016 reduced regulations from 250 feet to 50 feet.
 - If LRAC were to petition the NH legislature to remove the exemptions, it would affect 26.71 miles in the following towns: Candia, Deerfield, Fremont, Lee, Northwood, Nottingham, and Raymond.
- rivers and lakes coordination:
 - Designated rivers have LACs in NH. Lakes do not have LACs. Lakes usually have lake associations, but these groups do not have the rights assigned to LACs regarding project review.
 - NHDES in reality has no lakes coordinator, but there is a Lakes Management Advisory Council similar to the Rivers Management Advisory Council.
 - Definitions of lakes and rivers are fuzzy, as are the differences between the two.
 - As instream flow management becomes more common, communication between river and lake groups should improve.
- Designated river LAC overview:
 - 18 rivers currently designated, Warner should be official very soon.
 - Designation covers 990 miles, plus another 20 with the Warner.
 - LACs can combine to share expertise and avoid duplication where approved by the affected towns.

approval of minutes from June 12, 2018:

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

financial report:

Account activity, year-to-date budget, land protection fund, and book sales were reviewed with no issues noted.

workgroup updates:

land protection: No updates offered.

outreach, history, recreation: July meeting will be held on July 11.

- New chair will be needed for outreach with Sharon Meeker's resignation.

- The Lee Heritage Commission would like to reprint *Peter Little Bear*. We need to figure out copyright and expense issues.
- Two draft panels for Schoppmeyer Park were shared.

project review: No projects were reviewed in July.

water quality: Student analyst is away and is not responding to requests for edits to the abstract. Emily Schmalzer will do the edits if the student cannot be reached.

wildlife: The bat acoustic study is ready to get underway anytime.

canoe passage improvement grant: Work will occur in mid August. Volunteers are needed to help move the wood.

LRWA update: No information available.

other:

- An email was shared expressing how important safe canoeing opportunities are and what can be gained by connecting people to the river in this way.
- As agreed in June, the full committee will not meet in August.
- Upcoming events:
 - July 11, wildlife meeting, 9:00, office
 - July 11, outreach, rec, history meeting, 10:00, office
 - August 1, wildlife meeting, 9:00, office
 - August 1, outreach, rec, history meeting, 10:00, office
 - August 2, project review, 7:00, Lee Safety
 - August 14, LRAC meeting CANCELLED
 - August 25, Lamprey River Splash & Dash, Schanda Park, Newmarket
 - September 1, Eco-paddle, Schanda Park, Newmarket
 - September 8, triathlon, Raymond
- Sharon Meeker will resign effective August 1 after nearly 3 decades of committed service to the Lamprey River. Representatives from LRAC, NHDES, and NPS shared stories celebrating a job well done. Sharon will be moving soon and will be greatly missed.
- Preston Samuel has decided not renew his appointment and will resign effective August 13. He was thanked for his significant contributions to project review, as treasurer, and as ambitious idea man. He will continue to assist with two of his pet projects in a limited capacity.

adjournment: Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Meeting was adjourned with unanimous support.