

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 27, 2015
Nottingham Town Hall, Stage Road, 6:30 pm

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker (Lee), Carolyn Mathews, Debbie McNelly (Raymond)

members absent: Al Hall (excused), Ann Welsh, Preston Samuel (excused), Michelle Daley (excused)

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 6:30.

minutes from June 25, 2015:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 4 abstentions.

work group updates:

Outreach Work Group Meeting Notes July 29, 2015 (shared via email, no additional discussion at meeting)

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

contracts:

- Chick and Dee Dee's book: Contract has been signed by both parties. Most other previous contracts have included some payment prior to final product. Suzanne was authorized to offer the illustrator, Denise Brown, half of the agreed amount when half of the work is done and the other half will be paid upon receipt of the final product.
- Small Grants: Sharon is still working on MoAs for the four grants. She is trying to reconcile the traditional LRAC format with the more structured NPS format.

Volksmarch in 2016 to celebrate NPS 100th anniversary:

Suzanne has been researching national and local walking groups. The American Volkssport Association sponsors over 1200 events each year for members and other walkers. New Hampshire has the Bike-Walk Alliance and the NH Patriot Pathfinders. The Foundation for Healthy Communities offers incentives for individuals and groups to walk the length of NH (190 miles) or the width (70 miles).

The Foot and Ankle Center of Portsmouth offers meet-up walking events.

Other potential partners include the NPS trails group, the recreation departments from the four W&S towns, history groups from Newmarket and Durham. The target date will be fall of 2016. Suzanne will start gathering potential partners and arranging preliminary meetings.

Most Volksmarch treks are 6.2 miles with a shorter 3.1 offering. The best route at first glance seems to be downtown Newmarket to Wiswall Falls in Durham (Schanda Park off Route 108 past mills to Elm Street to Packers Falls Road to Wiswall Road). Extra detours could be offered to walk around the Lamprey River Preserve at Packers Falls. Most of the trek will follow public roads to encourage socializing among walkers. Durham and Newmarket police will need to be involved to close at least one lane during the event.

Walkers can stop along the way and learn about local history and ecology in addition to relaxing at the usual snack stations. Other considerations: parking, shuttles back to starting line, port-a-potties, back-up vehicles for injured or tired walkers, handicap accessibility, commemorative patches or other souvenirs, etc.

fall activities:

- continuing outreach to principals re: Lamprey River Curriculum
- canoe/kayak tour of tidal portion highlighting Macallen Dam issues, WWTF, aquaculture, examples and consequences of good buffers vs. poor buffers, etc. Target audience will be LRAC, LRWA, and their families. Will serve as a pilot program for the general public at some future time. Suzanne will coordinate with Dick Snow and the full LRAC. Possible date 3rd Saturday or Sunday in October. For participants who do not have a boat, we will need to ask committee members or make arrangements with an outfitter for extra canoes or kayaks.
- A potential tour of the river by car became a discussion of possibly organizing a LRAC picnic to serve as the August meeting and introduce members to a special site along the river. Suzanne will speak with Dick Snow.

miscellaneous:

- LR Instream Flow Management Plan update July 29, 2015, 6-8 at Lee Safety Building. Sharon reported 17-18 cfs from the Packers Falls gauge the last two weeks or so.

- We need to get DVDs out to public. Currently for sale @ \$10.00 each, but nobody is buying. Lower price to \$2 or \$3? Plan events at libraries or historic societies that feature the DVDs?
- *Foster's* new format allows announcements of local club and organization meetings. Suzanne will submit meeting announcements going forward.
- Face Book and Twitter are underutilized on website. We need young blood to visit the sites daily and to build our following. Explore the possibility of creating an internship for a UNH student?
- Results of river herring release above Wadleigh Falls this past spring? The last Suzanne heard, nobody reported sighting any fish. She will check with F&G for final report and ask for an update on future plans that might include tagging individual fish for radio tracking.
- Sharon reported that representative notebooks probably are not being kept current. New ones need to be made for newly added members and future members. Suzanne offered to help.
- Display set up could use a streaming photo frame. Showing DVDs is distracting for us and the people with whom we hope to chat. Dick Lord will investigate if he can find the time.
- Expansion of W&S status to towns upriver: Experienced members of W&S can help, but local reps will be essential to build local support. Investigate forming a work group that can focus intensively on the effort? Reminder, addition of new towns to the W&S designation will not bring in more federal money beyond what is currently received.

town issues:

- Raymond: Dick Snow received a communication from someone who lives across the river from the future canoe launch noting that a neighbor seemed to be altering the shoreland. Dick was asked to investigate.
- Raymond: The town currently does not designate prime wetlands, but selectmen seem to be more receptive to the idea as well as increasing the width of buffers. Mark West will be presenting a session on September 9 at 7:00 in the Raymond High School Library.
- According to reports in local newspapers, work has ceased on the Route 108 widening project in Durham and Newmarket. A business owner is attempting to sue NHDOT claiming that the project will result in increased flooding on her property. Members were quick to note that other issues regarding private use of a state right-of-way might also be at play.

NHDES issues:

- Jacquie Colburn has retired from her position as director of the rivers and lakes management and protection programs. Due to the uncertain status of the state budget, DES is not replacing her immediately. A part-time person will continue to be available in the interim.

- Discussions are taking place about the future of the lakes and rivers protection programs, with a possible joining of the two separate entities into one watershed entity.

events:

- Deerfield Old Home Day, August 15 (We were been unable to contact to register our booth; will try again next year.)
- Outreach work group meeting September 2 at the office
- Lee Fair, September 12 (Suzanne Petersen will cover, plus help)
- Om-a-Can-Can-Oe triathlon, September 12 (Debbie McNelly and Sharon Meeker will cover, plus help)
- Wild and Scenic subcommittee meeting Tuesday, September 15, 7:00, Lee Safety Complex
- Nottingham Family Fun Day, September 19 (Sharon Meeker and Suzanne Petersen will cover.)
- possible LRWA-sponsored (W&S funded) watershed-wide litter pick up date September 19?
- Durham Day, September 26 (Sharon Meeker and Dick Lord will cover)
- Newmarket- No info is available on website or from town about Heritage Day or Oyster Festival, assume it has been cancelled.

old business:

- Northwood Meadows dam repair: DES and the dam bureau do not seem to be interested in rebuilding the dam so that the former pond depth will be re-established. Dick Snow has not yet contacted other groups that might be interested in advocating for a new dam.
- Trout Unlimited has submitted an application to DES for a permit to add wood into the river upstream of Freese's Pond.

new business:

- Raymond Oma-Can-Can-Oe boat launch: Carolyn Matthews provided an update. The town is seeking a \$40,000 grant from the state and LRAC is being asked to send a letter of support to the NH Rivers Management Advisory Commission. **Dick Lord made a motion for the chair to send a letter indicating support of the town's efforts to improve recreational access to the river at this park. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Mendum's Pond dam repair: The dam is currently posing an imminent threat and the lake will be drawn down 20 feet after Labor Day so that repairs can proceed. The repairs are expected to take 12-24 months. While the water is lowered, Dick Snow suggested that historians might take advantage of the opportunity to search for artifacts. Mussels are likely to be stranded during the drawdown. Dick Lord will ask Jim MacCartney of the NPS to contact Ethan Nedeau, mussel researcher, to ask what might be done with the stranded mussels. Suzanne Petersen noted that the gauge at Packers Falls that measures instream flow will be recording

values from the Little River that might overvalue flows in the main stem. The project review work group has not submitted formal comments due to the fact that the initial wetlands application did not include exact plans or maps.

- Newmarket subdivision proposal: A subdivision planned for a lot near Macallen Dam would be a great opportunity to include a portage around the falls. The Newmarket Town Planning Board and the developer are amenable to including this provision.

miscellaneous:

- LRAC meeting notices are not being posted in Raymond. Dick Snow and Carolyn Matthews will investigate.
- Brentwood is having a clean-up day along the Exeter River on September 27 at 1:00.
- The next LRAC meeting will begin at 7:00, not 6:30, as agreed in June.
- The recent flow release pulse from Pawtuckaway was discussed briefly. The pulse started on the morning of 8/17 and elevated the discharge at the Packers Fall gage starting in the evening on 8/19.

adjournment:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

The project review work group met briefly following the regular meeting to discuss two projects:

- Nottingham: An after-the-fact wetlands permit application described work to decrease the size of the parking lot and add some stormwater treatments at the boat launch on Stage Road. Preston Samuel visited the site and found no issues. The group decided to forego a formal comment letter and simply notify DES that everything seems in order.
- Deerfield: Trout Unlimited is proposing to add felled trees to the river above Freese's Pond to improve fish habitat. The stream there is not suitable for recreational boating, so the work group decided to send a letter noting the potential for conflicts with recreation elsewhere, but that this site was fine for such work.

On September 1, 2015 the following email was sent to all from Carolyn Matthews:

News on the Raymond Canoe Launch: Just a few minutes ago, the Raymond Selectmen decided NOT to pursue the Oma-Can -Can-oe Launch land purchase at this time. The owner did not accept the town's offer at the appraised price, and the Selectmen opted not to go

higher. That puts the ball back in the owner's lap where it is likely to remain indefinitely.

The plan now is to try once again to work with the school to develop the Town Beach behind the Lamprey River Elementary School and put the canoe launch there. This may require another vote of the town in March 2016.

The Triathlon is still a go, and donations will go toward work on the river area behind the school. Unfortunately, all the grant money must be returned to the state, and the Conservation Commission match will not be forthcoming.

Our goal was always to affirm the jewel of the Lamprey in the heart of Raymond, and the last six months of activity and publicity and public interest have gone a long way toward promoting that. I'm personally thankful to all of you who supported this effort and look forward to OMA Can-Can-Oe resurrecting in the future.

Best, Carolyn