

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes August 28, 2014
Smyth Public Library, Candia 7:30 p.m.**

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer, Fred Lindahl (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Harriet Cady (excused), Ann Welsh (excused) , Jenn Rowden (excused), Kitty Miller (excused), Peter Wellenberger (excused), Kathleen Hoelzel

Meeting began at 7:38.

approval of minutes from July 24, 2014

Al Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed with 11 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

workgroup updates:

education and outreach:

- The third session of the Hike It, Bike It, Like It public program was offered August 24 at Mary Blair Park in Epping. Although attendance has been low for this 3-session program, the group will offer the program again next summer with an improved schedule, better descriptions of content, etc..
- The Junior Rangers program concluded with a graduation ceremony at which 15 badges and certificates were awarded to participants. Two counselors in training were also given badges. One will be available during the school year and next summer to help lead the program.

history:

The fourth panel at Wiswall Falls has been ordered. Durham has agreed to create and fund a new sign for "John Hatch Park at Wiswall Falls." A dedication ceremony could be held as early as September.

land protection:

- Work on arranging public walks on easements that allow for public access is progressing slowly. Ellen Snyder was contacted regarding the possibility of surveying such walks for species that require special consideration, but this requires more discussion.
- Easement projects are moving slowly, with details to be reported in non-public session.

recreation:

Progress is being made toward getting the boat landing sign up at the site on Highway 152 in Lee and replacing some of the Wild and Scenic River signs.

water issues:

Good progress is being made on collecting and analyzing dissolved oxygen data from 1990 to the present. Much of the river looks good with exceptions at New Boston Road (probably due to extensive wetlands). The group will begin to try to determine who the audience will be and how the data should be presented to meet the needs of the primary audience.

wildlife:

Preliminary data from the mussel study completed this summer have been received. Rare mussels continue to be at great risk of extirpation in the Lamprey. The cause of their decline might be due to burial during flood events, but problems with pH or dissolved oxygen cannot be ruled out at this point.

project review:

- A second letter was sent to DES and other concerned parties about slightly revised plans for New England Dragway. The engineering was notable for many shortcuts and omissions in standard practice.
- Seedlings Daycare Center in Epping submitted a proposal to expand parking with porous material on a steep slope. Concerns centered on maintaining the porous surface and risk of slope failure.
- A house lot in Raymond appears to be developed in violation of normal permit conditions. Preston Samuel noted the problem from the road and did some follow-up research on the internet which verified his observation. Dick Snow retrieved the 2011 permit from Raymond Town Hall. Carolyn Matthews indicated in a letter that she consulted with the town planner who assured her the project was completely fine.
- A database for projects exists but updates are needed.
- A suggestion was made to have all project packages sent to the LRAC office. This has been tried before with unsatisfactory outcomes. The LRAC office is not visited on a regular basis, so mail sits for sometimes long periods. After discussion, it was agreed that the current system of having mail sent to Sharon Meeker's house will continue.
- It was noted that at least one other LAC has mail sent to a liaison at the regional planning office. LRAC might consider a similar arrangement at some point.

Wild and Scenic Subcommittee:

In addition to the usual topics, a guest speaker, Dorn Cox, made a presentation about using smart phones to monitor agricultural areas for soil and water conditions. LRAC might want to consider a joint project with Dorn.

town issues and actions:

- The Candia Conservation Commission has requested that LRAC comment on the application for capping material on top of the already capped New Boston Road incinerator site. This topic has been discussed in depth several times, but the project review workgroup will discuss it again at the meeting on Sept. 4.

- Concern was raised about the house in Raymond that appears to be in violation of shoreland protection rules. Preston Samuel and Dick Snow reviewed their findings. Carolyn Matthews will follow-up with Raymond town officials.

events:

- Newmarket Olde Home Day and Oyster Festival, Aug. 9, all day.
- Lee Fair, Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mastway School playing field in the center of Lee. Harvest supper afterward.
- Tour and discussion of Rothwell conservation property in Lee, September 10, (located across Highway 152 from the boat landing). All LRAC members are invited to Sharon's house at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the management plan which the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee financed through the Small Grants program. At 10:30 participants will meet with the Lee Conservation Committee to tour the property with Ellen Snyder. There is parking for 4-5 cars at the landing.
- Nottingham Family Day, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., beside the Nottingham school.
- The Stewardship Network planning group, Sept. 23, 8:30-10:30, Lee Safety Building
- Durham Day, Sept. 27, time to be announced, waterside at Wagon Hill Park.

membership status update:

- Ted Janusz from Raymond resigned July 23.
- Mike Russo from Nottingham resigned August 12.
- Harriet Cady and Todd Piskovitz terms will expire in October 2014.
- Three potential representatives from Newmarket stopped by the LRAC display at the Newmarket Olde Home Day. They were sent invitations to attend meetings and basic information about the committee.
- Dick Snow has reached out to Nottingham and Northwood town officers to suggest representatives.

LRAC Bylaws: n/a

Rivers Management Advisory Council legislative action proposal:

The Rivers Management Advisory Council is proposing to amend RSA 483. The change pertinent to the Lamprey is to remove language that excludes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams from provisions of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, RSA 483 B. Discussion ensued with arguments for and against such a change. A suggestion was made to recommend specifying perennial streams only in the change. Dick Snow will contact RMAC to ask for its rationale for recommending the proposal. The committee will discuss this again at the September 25 meeting. The committee's response is needed by September 29.

other:

- Dick Snow was contacted by a high school science teacher who is interested in having her class(es) work with LRAC on a water quality monitoring or outreach project. Suzanne Petersen will contact her to follow up.
- One of the duties of LACs is to submit annual reports to member towns and biennial reports to DES. A draft report for FY 2014 has been prepared. It was noted that Jacquie Colburn also needs each LAC to complete a standard form. These can be shared and discussed at the September meeting.
- A letter from the RMAC to NHDOT was shared. NHDOT proposed to amend RSA 483 to eliminate the necessity of applying for a wetlands permit and LAC review for routine roadway maintenance activities. RMAC found the proposal acceptable iff NHDOT adheres to best management practices, stream crossing rules (Env-Wt 900), and other stipulations.
- Dick Snow has received approval from UNH to reproduce copies of the recent article in the UNH Magazine about Great Bay. This will be an important piece to share with the public at events, etc..

adjournment:

Al Hall made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:23.