

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED OCT. 9, 2018

representatives present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller (Lee), Cris Blackstone, Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Ann Scholz (Northwood), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Debs Kalicin (Epping), Ian Hand (Newmarket)

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to transfer \$25,000 from the operating account to the land protection account. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was approved unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.

Al Hall nominated Mary Ann Krebs to be treasurer. Dick Lord seconded. The nomination passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from July 10, 2018:

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

financial report:

Bank activity, budget and year-to-date, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.

Joe Foley requested that each workgroup create a work plan and budget to share with the full committee in October.

Anne Lightbody made a motion to transfer \$25,000 from the operating account to the land protection account. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was approved unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.

Al Hall, who was elected to be treasurer at the July meeting, has decided that he is not able to assume the added responsibility right now. **Al Hall**

nominated Mary Ann Krebs to be treasurer. Dick Lord seconded. The nomination passed unanimously.

land protection update:

Two projects are currently under consideration.

outreach, recreation, and history update:

See attached meeting notes at end.

project review update:

- A project to remove an existing house and build a new house and septic system in Deerfield was reviewed. The group anticipated no impacts to the river.
- Cris Blackstone was elected as the new project review chair.
- The group decided to use a checklist based on standard practices of other LACs for the next three months. The checklist will be shared with all committee members.

water quality update:

- A UNH student has been identified to perform analysis for this year.
- Emily Schmalzer is working on a revision to the abstract submitted by last year's student. Once completed, she will share with the committee. Copies will be sent to three key contacts at NHDES.
- The group needs to determine the focus on action for this year. A suggestion was made to review data from the tidal section.

wildlife update:

- Preliminary results from the acoustic bat study are in. A formal presentation of final results will be given to the full committee in October.
- Several older reports need to be scanned. If no recent research has been performed, the group will look into follow-up.
- It was noted that David Carroll's turtle studies from 1999 indicated that the best turtle habitat in the seacoast is located along the river in Epping. Follow-up is needed and could serve as a shovel-ready grant proposal.

NHCF grant update:

On August 17 and 18, the TU/LRAC/NPS team successfully cleared obstructions to canoe passage while protecting ecological functions from the Route 87 bridge to Wadleigh Falls. Most work was accomplished using chain saws and loppers, but a grip hoist was used at one location. A few new trees had fallen since the spring survey. One large obstruction had been cleared by an unknown individual; however, the clearing was performed without regard or knowledge of the increased risk of erosion that is expected to ensue at that site. No portages should be required currently, unless water depth changes significantly.

As part of the grant, public input is required. A public paddle will be arranged as soon as possible for this fall.

LRWA update:

- The focus this year was on water quality. Three tests for *E. coli* were done at Wiswall bridge. Some results of concern for swimming safety were noted. A recommendation was made to compare a same-day upstream sample with the bridge sample to avoid false high readings due to pigeon waste.
- The search for a new executive director will begin soon.
- The tentative date for the annual meeting is November 8. A recommendation was made to invite Alison Watts to speak about eDNA.
- A water quality display was set up at the September 8 triathlon in Raymond. Thirty-five athletes and their supporters participated.

town updates:

- Raymond: The town has filed a complaint to NHDES notifying them of a landowner who had excavated to the water's edge. Complaint came to LRAC Raymond Rep Matthews and to the Raymond Conservation Commission chair who expedited action by the town code enforcement officer. New Raymond Police Chief is on board with his staff following up on suspected violations evenings and weekends.
- Newmarket: It was noted that Dick Lord (from Durham) has been mentioned several times for his knowledge and contributions to the town with the Schoppmeyer Park project and several kiosk projects.

office clean-out:

It was noted that the office is full of outdated materials and is in need of cleaning and reorganization. Consensus was to move forward to make the space more comfortable and efficient.

potential partnership between LRAC and Seven Rivers Paddling:

This past summer, an opportunity arose to combine a "Hammock to 3k" Small Grant paddle with a Newmarket Business Association paddle offered by Seven Rivers. The NBA paddle attracted 24 people who were new to paddling and who knew little about the ecology and history of Lamprey River or Great Bay. It is rare to have this sort of opportunity to share the river and Great Bay with novices.

A potential partnership between Seven Rivers and LRAC was discussed at the outreach meeting and deemed to be a good idea. The consensus by the full committee was also positive. It was agreed that this idea should be pursued. Carolyn Matthews supported the idea, but said that Raymond has developed a working partnership for local Lamprey River events with its local outfitter, Mountain Road Trading Post, and that she felt that LRAC

should keep the door open to involving local outfitters in other LRAC towns also.

reminder about the need for neutrality:

It was noted that the project review workgroup does a good job of fairly evaluating the pros and cons of proposed projects. Recommendations are considered by NHDES and often result in positive changes. Recent experiences at the town level have shown how a loss of neutrality can result in negative consequences. The LRAC has, in the past, been asked to take a stance on controversial projects. Remaining neutral has bolstered the group's standing and eliminated the risk of conflicts of interest that can undermine project review comments.

upcoming meetings and events:

- Sept. 22, afternoon: Durham Day Picnic, Wagon Hill Farm
- Sept. 22, 9:00- 2:00, SELT Trail Fest, Burley Farm, Epping
- Oct. 3, 9:00: wildlife meeting, office
- Oct. 3, 10:00: outreach, rec, & history meeting, office
- Oct. 9, 7:00 P.M.: LRAC meeting, Lee Safety

adjournment:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to adjourn. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Outreach, Rec, & History Meeting Notes September 5, 2018

Dick Lord, Mary Ann Krebs, Jerry Martin, Suzanne Petersen

Peter Little Bear reprinting:

The original text and illustrations have been provided to the publisher in Concord. The Word file will need to be reformatted to a publishing-compatible format. This will cost \$110 - \$165. We will get a copy of this file which can be used by any publisher in the future. Printing 50 copies will cost \$585; 100 copies will cost \$750, \$150 copies will cost \$1047.

Book sales are not spectacular, but the book might have value for an elementary classroom. It was suggested that LRAC provide one set of 30 books to each of the four W&S elementary schools. Suzanne will check with the schools to determine if this donation would be used. Dick noted that Native educators might want to review the book and provide their perspective to add to classroom discussions and activities. Suzanne will follow up on this suggestion.

LRAC banner:

A suggestion was made to have a banner made for the LRAC display and at events. A very quick on-line search indicated a small 1.6' x 3' banner would cost about \$20.00 and a large 3' x 8' banner would cost about \$80.00.

Dick made a motion to move forward with purchasing two LRAC banners, one small and one large. Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

outreach opportunities with local rec departments and outfitters:

Suzanne noted that, overall, the Hammock to 3k Small Grant was minimally successful this past summer; however, it did unlock some potential opportunities for outreach. By chance, one of the Hammock to 3k events was scheduled simultaneously with a Newmarket Business Association promotional paddle with Seven Rivers. The decision was made to combine the two events. As a result, 24 people who would not normally paddle or know anything about the river got to see the river and estuary for themselves and hear about some of the issues affecting the area's waters.

Suzanne suggested that LRAC might want to partner with Seven Rivers and rec. departments for events such as this. If the event is projected to have at least a certain number of attendees, Suzanne would go along to provide natural interpretation to Seven Rivers or the recreation department in exchange for use of a free boat. The LRAC would pay Suzanne for her outreach time.

Dick made a motion to recommend that the full committee support building a formal relationship with paddling groups. Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mast Way School field trip:

The fourth grade classes will have their Lamprey River field trip in October. Suzanne will provide in-class preparation. Help is needed to lead some of the stations. Jerry, Dick, and Mary Ann offered to help or at least observe for next year.

local fairs:

- Lee Fair, September 8, all day: Dick, Mary Ann, Jerry, and Suzanne will share duties.
- Durham Town Picnic, September 22: Dick and Suzanne will share duties.

Tilton Conservation Area (Route 87 bridge) improvements update:

The MoA for signage and floodplain trail improvement has been signed. It was determined late in the process that a Trails Work Notification to NHDES would be needed. Epping CC will take care of that prior to working on the floodplain trail bridges. Signs will be designed and printed this winter. Canoe launch improvements will be a separate grant.

canoe passage improvements from Route 87 to Wadleigh Falls.

Dick reviewed footage from the trail camera deployed on site. He noted fewer than two dozen paddlers. Some went downstream only, a few returned.

Trout Unlimited and several LRAC members worked on modifying the obstacles in late August. Passage via canoe is now possible through all sites except for one where a portage is still needed.

Thompson Forest kiosk:

Dick is waiting for some historical information and is devising a work-around for the panel's greatly reduced area for Lamprey info.

Splash and Dash, August 25:

The race is building slowly. A group of 24 adults from a local ski group entered the pirate-theme parade and waged water gun war with spectators on shore. Support from Newmarket businesses allowed organizers to offer \$50 prizes for each race and parade category, as well as a pirate treasure hunt.

tidal eco-paddle, September 1:

Participation, with 11 adults and 3 kids, was lower than last year. Publicity was good. The weather was cooler and more pleasant after a long stretch of extreme heat and humidity,

but the Labor Day weekend seems to have suppressed participation. Presenters talked about river herring and dams, oyster restoration, eelgrass issues, and overall Great Bay water quality. Wildlife highlights were bald eagles, two flocks of turkeys crossing the river, ospreys, great blue herons, and belted kingfishers.