

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes September 24, 2015
7:00, Raymond Safety Building**

APPROVED OCTOBER 29, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond), Dawn Genes (associate member)

members absent: Al Hall (excused), Todd Piskovitz (excused), Ann Welsh, Sharon Meeker (excused), Debbie McNelly (excused)

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

approval of minutes from August 27, 2015:

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

outreach update:

- Oct. 17 (?) paddle on tidal portion:
We will investigate tides, potential highlights of the trip (Macallen Dam and fish ladder, fish weir, WWTF, oyster farm, great blue heron rookery, etc.), and take care of organizing the event. This will be a trial run for LRAC and LRWA before we offer it to the public perhaps in 2016.
Post script: following the regular W&S meeting, the outreach group decided to delay this activity until 2016 due to several issues that will make the event difficult this year. It was suggested that W&S work with the Gundalow Company to customize a Lamprey program as a reward for LRAC and LRWA participation paid for with a W&S subsidy and member contributions. If the paddling option is pursued, a high level of safety will be required. Perhaps we could work with GBNERR to provide boats and safety personnel.
- topical contributions to local media:
The fall newsletter and three articles were submitted to *Speak Up, Epping*. Sharon Meeker suggested submitting articles to *Fosters*. It was noted that photos are tricky and that photos from the internet, even from public sources, are problematic unless permission is specifically sought and granted. Jim MacCartney will be asked to investigate NPS policy on using photos gleaned from NPS sources.

- improving outreach:
LRAC is in a tough position to offer outreach opportunities alone. We will be much more successful if we can build partnerships with local libraries and recreation departments. We will create a list of simple offerings or opportunities and then meet with program directors. Encourage LRAC members to meet with local librarians and recreation programs.
- How do we encourage landowners to protect wildlife, water, and soils on their land? Land protection workgroup is not especially interested in this project; turn it into an outreach-led effort.
 - Hold a contest in which entrants show or explain why their backyard is special. Offer prizes in several categories such as wildlife, water resources, soil protection, recreation, etc. Combine the idea of protection with economic gain in terms of resale value, etc.
 - Investigate a public reward system for voluntary best management practices: featured property or owner for newsletters and media release, “honor roll” at town hall, insignia for mail box or front door, gift certificate for local restaurant, etc.
 - Conduct a survey that engages interest in protecting land.
- Continuing education of LRAC members: Try to incorporate 10-15 minutes per meeting for important topics.
- Lamprey River Curriculum:
It was noted that Tracie Sales at DES has heard great things about the Curriculum from Dana Zulager of Raymond. A teacher at Raymond Elementary School was suggested as an additional contact.

Instream Flow Update: relief pulse from Pawtuckaway Lake in August:

Here is some information from Wayne Ives about the Pawtuckaway flow release back in August.

“We did start the release about 10 on Monday the 17th. Dam Bureau removed one log that was above the lake level and another two that were partially in the water and replaced them with a cut down stoplog to create the desired flow. Fish and Game installed a curtain of nets around the stoplog bay to prevent alewives from trying to migrate out. We cut the flow rate in half after 46 hours to try to avoid stranding aquatic species by tapering the end of the release and reset all the original stoplogs after 50 hours. The relief pulse took about 55 hours to arrive at Packer’s Falls gage, which had me concerned all day Wednesday because I expected it before Wednesday morning. Previous fall releases (when stream flows were higher) took 23 and 35 hours. The very low flow conditions appear to increase the channel roughness and slowed the relief pulse, but until the pulse arrived I had to wonder if it had been lost to wetland and bank storage.

I drove the Lamprey River Wednesday and saw a lot of water in Pawtuckaway River and the upstream reaches of the Lamprey until after it crosses Rt 125. At Packers Falls gage flow was recorded at 7.7 cfs while we were 10.5 from Pawtuckaway. We saw only the start of the recession leg because of the storm flow, but that jump in flow starting late afternoon

Wednesday and lasting two days was the pulse. Without the release Mendums Pond dam, which is out of commission, the pulse did not exceed the protected instream flow thresholds, but we saw over 8 cfs out of the 10.5 that was released.

With Mendums releasing 4.5 cfs we would have been right on target, assuming I can get the pulses to arrive simultaneously. It was good to have an actual low-flow condition to test a relief pulse. Except for the delayed arrival, it worked as I expected.”

Wayne

Events:

- Sat., Sept. 12: Oma-Can-Can-Oe Triathlon in Raymond: LRAC and LRWA were represented by Dawn Genes, Debbie McNelly, and Carolyn Matthews.
- Sat., Sept. 12: Lee Fair, Mast Way School field: Suzanne Petersen and Dick Lord took shifts staffing the display.
- Sat., Sept. 19: Nottingham Family Fun Day, Nottingham Elementary School: Suzanne Petersen set up the tent and display. Debbie McNelly and Emily Schmalzer helped out in the afternoon.
- Sat., Sept. 19: Lamprey River stream clean up sponsored by LRWA and funded by W&S's Small Grant Program. Dawn Genes coordinated clean up at four sites.
- Sat., Sept. 26: Durham Day Picnic at Wagon Hill Farm: Dick Lord and Anne Lightbody will set up the display at 12:00 and stay until the 4:00 close.

Land Protection Update:

As reported in the W&S minutes, two projects are being finalized.

Project Review Update:

- A preliminary lot-line adjustment at Elm and North Main in Newmarket was noted to be a good opportunity for a potential canoe portage around Macallen Dam. Both the developer and the town are interested in the idea and are starting planning for an easement.
- Trout Unlimited's proposed addition of woody material to a stream-like segment of the Lamprey above Freese's Pond in Deerfield will not be

treated as an expedited permit as initially proposed. Preston Samuel noted concerns with setting precedents that might limit paddling access or impede safe passage. NHDOT noted concerns about increased flooding. DES noted concerns about “restoring” a site that might not be classified as “degraded.” Much discussion ensued: Is defining a project’s suitability based on stream order alone appropriate? The conflicting needs of recreational use and habitat development/restoration must be addressed. What is the potential for creating “strainers” and how will paddler safety be affected?

Wild and Scenic Update:

recreation update:

- The LRWA/LRAC group that is investigating woody obstacles in the river between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls is still considering a pilot project to relocate some wood to improve canoe passage. The suggestion was made that LRAC consider placing signs at various launch sites that indicate the suggested skill level in the vicinity of the launch, such as noting that x miles upstream requires several portages and that x miles downstream is family friendly during certain times of the year.
- Portage access around Wadleigh Falls continues to be an issue. The owner of the land that is the most convenient wants to ensure that the river and banks remain protected and requests that all visitors to the site seek his permission, but actually contacting him is a sometimes difficult task. The law is clear that paddlers have the right to portage as needed, but some workable compromise with the landowner would be highly desirable.
- The footpath proposal is moving along. A public presentation/ comment session in Durham is scheduled for September 16 and one for Lee is scheduled for September 17. Presentations for Epping and Newmarket are still being arranged.

cows in the river update:

Laurel Cox has tried to contact the landowner’s son several times without success. Observations of the site verify that cows are still going to the river for water and are disturbing the river bank. Once contact is made, Laurel will ask if the landowner is aware of the problem and if he has any suggestions about what can be done to correct the problem. She can then offer help from LRAC if that would be helpful.

draft Lamprey River instream flow management plan comments session:

NHDES will have a presentation and seek comments on September 23 at the NH Fish and Game office in Durham. One key question that remains for W&S members is how to define success of the plan and of relief pulses. Members were encouraged to attend and ask questions.

other:

- Judith Spang shared an email that Durham is not taking any water from the Lamprey presently due to low flows. Questions remain about water sustainability from all sources in the Durham/UNH Water System, especially considering the proliferation of new housing in Durham recently.
- The group was reminded that the Mendum's Pond draw-down for repairs to the dam will begin September 9. The water gauge at Packers Falls should reflect the increased flow in the lower Lamprey.
- Jake Poirier will be presenting his research findings on the Woodman Brook siltation problem to the full LRAC on Thursday, September 24. (delayed until October)
- water quality:
 - Analysis of water quality data will be picking up again now that UNH is back in session.
 - Ann Welsh, the working group leader, is no longer engaged with the group or the committee. She has indicated informally that she will be leaving, but she has not provided anything official. The water group needs some leadership and a succession plan.
 - Data are available, but they are mostly still in a raw form. Much work remains on how committee members and the public might use the data. All members are encouraged to participate in creating a strategy and plan.

Soak Up the Rain Presentation, Laura Byergo:

Because most representatives are familiar with this stormwater reduction program, the focus was on the project team's desire to work with Newmarket to find a suitable pilot project site. The team will meet with the conservation commission on Sept. 26 to explore some possible sites. The project team is still looking for a few sites upstream that drain to a water body.

Walking Trail Feasibility Study:

As part of the National Park Service's Call 2 Action grant program, the Wild and Scenic group was awarded a grant for \$6000 to study the feasibility of a walking trail from Mary Blair Park in Epping to Lubberland Creek with connections to the Sweet Trail in Newmarket.

Preston Samuel, Sharon Meeker, and Dick Lord met with the conservation commissions of the four lower towns, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, the owners of several large land holdings, land protection groups, and others to create a potential trail. The trail attempts to connect existing town trails and public access on conservation easements while staying within the quarter mile corridor on one side of the river until a safe crossing is available via a public bridge. Wetlands and other sensitive areas were avoided as well as subdivisions. Maps were produced showing

the potential route. The group offered four public input sessions, but they were not well attended. The final report is being prepared with a summarizing viewpoint that the trail is possible, but that making it a reality will take a lot of work and time.

town items:

- Raymond: The Oma-Can-Can-Oe boat launch is dead for now. The landowner rejected the offer at the appraised value. The grants that Raymond received toward the project will not need to be returned and can be used for finding and developing the launch at a different site. Locating the launch at the Lamprey River Elementary School is a possibility, but not in the immediate future.
- Raymond: During the river clean up on September 19, one Raymond volunteer found many empty plastic plant containers and plant wrappers at the cemetery side of the river. This might be an opportunity to work with the cemetery managers to work on ways to reduce this source of litter.
- The drawdown at Mendum's Pond for dam repairs has begun.

Procedure for handling potential shoreland and other environmental violations:

LRAC currently does not have a defined procedure or protocol for handling complaints; one is definitely needed.

Background:

While at the Lee Fair on September 19, visitors from Raymond noted that a neighbor had reported seeing heavy machinery working right next to the river on a weekend. The neighbor apparently contacted the police who told her this was permitted. On a separate note, the same couple reported seeing a pipe discharging brown liquid into the river near the proposed Oma-Can-Can-Oe site. The couple freely provided their contact information and asked that it be shared with the people who might be able to answer their questions. These observations were emailed to Carolyn Matthews of Raymond, Dawn Genes of LRWA, LRAC Chairman Dick Snow, and permit reviewers at DES for guidance on next steps.

Follow-up by Carolyn Matthews revealed the following:

The neighbor did not contact the police on this event and the police have no record of such a report, not that it did not happen. Another neighbor later reported to the police that the landowner across the river was dumping water into the river. However, upon investigation, the police found that the landowner was withdrawing water to water his garden.

Key points of discussion:

- When and where possible, details of all complaints should be in writing and be shared with DES.
- DES complaint forms need to be readily available with local police, LRAC display materials, and on the LRAC website.

- Local police might need help with understanding environmental regulations. We can offer to help by creating or sharing a summary in brochure form.
- Town representatives should always be notified and kept in the loop if the town has a representative. The representative needs to keep key town personnel informed. The local “rumor mill” needs to be addressed and managed where possible.
- At least in Raymond, town code enforcement officers are skilled at intervening in shoreland violations and work with DES to resolve problems. Citizens should be encouraged to contact town staff for quick resolution and contact the police when town and DES staff are not available.
- Suzanne Petersen will contact other LACs and the RMAC for copies of their guidelines and policies regarding notification of potential violations and how best to engage municipal authorities. These guidelines can then be tweaked by LRAC as a basis for its own procedure going forward.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14.