

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes September 26, 2013
Nottingham Town Hall 7:00 p.m.**

APPROVED OCT. 24, 2013

members present: Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Rachel Stevens, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer, Fred Lindahl (Fremont), Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Mike Russo (Nottingham), Dawn Genes (associate member), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

guests: Al Hall (prospective member), Sue Mooney

absent: Harriet Cady (excused), Jenn Rowden (excused), Jere Beckman (excused), Sharon Meeker (excused), Kitty Miller (excused), Alison Watts (excused), Peter Wellenberger (excused), Kathleen Hoelzel, Ted Janusz (excused)

Summary of Motions:

Dick Snow made a motion to authorize Chair Mike Russo to write a letter to NRCS on behalf of the developer of the Maple Ridge project in Nottingham to seek support for putting the middle section of the proposed development into conservation. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Snow made a motion to accept the 2013 management plan subject to any final edits to the water section suggested by Michelle Daley. Michelle shall have 48 hours to submit the changes, after which time the draft will be final and ready for printing and distribution. Joe Foley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Members will officially sign the final version at the October meeting.

Proposed Nottingham Subdivision Presentation, by Sue Mooney of the Nottingham Planning Board and Nottingham Conservation Commission

The Maple Ridge subdivision has recently been approved by the Nottingham Planning Board. A section of the subdivision lies within 1000 feet of the North River and the whole project is in forest land/wetlands that supports prime wildlife habitat. The developer has planned for two neighborhoods separated by natural forest. The developer's intention was to leave intact the forest and the three associated vernal pools between the two neighborhoods, but safety concerns are requiring that a connecting road be built between the two areas that will be

developed. The road will not be paved and will be posted for emergency use only.

The developer's original plan was to apply for NRSC funding to conserve the middle area. With the access road adding to his costs, it is possible that the middle section might also be developed for housing.

The Nottingham Planning Board and Conservation Commission are asking LRAC to write a letter to NRCS on behalf of the developer to support his efforts to put that middle section into conservation. A copy of the plans will be left with the committee.

Discussion focused on the potential that an emergency road without gates could lead to increased ATC traffic, illegal dumping of appliances and tires, and general degradation of the area. Forest with a road through it is less valuable as conservation land, but an easement would guarantee that the land is monitored at least annually and that problems are addressed.

Dick Snow made a motion to authorize Chair Mike Russo to write a letter to NRCS on behalf of the developer of the Maple Ridge project in Nottingham to seek support for putting the middle section of the proposed development into conservation. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2013 Management Plan

Members discussed what additional changes are needed. Repetition of spelling out of acronyms and listing the tributaries were noted as unnecessary. It was also noted that many readers do not read the whole plan, only certain sections, so defining acronyms in each section will remain. Michelle Daley has not had a chance to review the water section carefully and requested an opportunity to do so. Some minor grammatical changes were suggested.

Dick Snow made a motion to accept the 2013 management plan subject to any final edits to the water section suggested by Michelle Daley. Michelle shall have 48 hours to submit the changes, after which time the draft will be final and ready for printing and distribution. Joe Foley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Members will officially sign the final version at the October meeting.

Letter of Response to the Letter Written by Lee Weldy on Behalf of the Raymond Business and Economic Development Council Regarding the Draft Management Plan

Members reviewed the letter and made one grammatical edit. The committee agreed that the letter was appropriate and that Mike Russo should present it formally to the Raymond Board of Selectmen.

Green Infrastructure Project Workshop Request

Alison Watts sent a letter to all members requesting that LRAC sponsor or co-sponsor an informational workshop for the watershed towns that would increase understanding of stormwater and green infrastructure. The workshop would be led by the Green Infrastructure Project team. She suggested the topic “Stormwater Standards for the Coastal Watershed: Training on how towns can implement stormwater regulations and a model they can use.” Dawn Genes, speaking on behalf of the Lamprey River Watershed Association, offered to co-sponsor the workshop. Mike Russo and Dawn will contact Alison to set up a time in April after town meetings are completed.

Subcommittee Reports, Miscellaneous

Project Review members reviewed the PSNH line rebuild project in Hookset, Deerfield, and Candia and offered their comments. The review subcommittee felt the project was largely well planned but added a few suggestions to help keep unwanted ATV traffic out of the area and improve the view from nearby roadways.

Members discussed what constitutes a “project.” According to NHRMPP language, the committee must receive applications for any permit needed from NHDES for a project that lies within a quarter mile of a designated river. If a permit is not required, the committee probably will not hear about it. Dick Snow noted his concern for a landfill capping project in Candia that probably will not need a permit but should be reviewed. Mike Russo asked Dick to send the details to him and Jacquie Colburn and see if LRAC should or could comment.

LRWA Annual Meeting and Dinner

Dawn Genes invited all LRAC members to attend the LRWA annual meeting and dinner on Oct. 18 at the Jeremiah Smith Grange in Lee. Martha Fuller Clark will be the invited speaker, a new video entitled “Reflections on a River” about the first 30 years of protecting the Lamprey will be premiered, and a silent auction of Lamprey River art will be held. Those who would like to attend should contact Dawn to make a reservation.

Salt Use in the Watershed

Preston Samuel noted that the Town of Lee road agent is eager to compare Lee’s salt use with that of other towns. Mike Russo will share what data he has

received and Preston offered to help collect data from towns that have not yet provided it.

Change in LRAC Leadership

Mike Russo noted that his job responsibilities necessitate his stepping down as chair effective in November. He will remain active with the committee. Members thanked him for his service as chair.

LAC Workshop Oct. 19 in Concord

This workshop was originally scheduled for spring. Members were encouraged to attend and learn from colleagues from other rivers.

Adjournment:

Dick Snow made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.