

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED NOVEMBER 13, 2018

representatives present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller (Lee), Cris Blackstone, Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Ann Scholz (Northwood), Therese Thompson (Nottingham)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Sarah Barnum, Sam DeMerrit

Meeting began at 7:03.

summary of motions passed:

Dick Lord made a motion to appropriate funding not covered in wildlife's FY2019 budget from the FY2018 surplus to cover the full cost of the bat study. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Lamprey River and Tributary Acoustic Bat Survey Results:

Sarah Barnum, Normandeau Associates

- NH bat species were reviewed and categorized as migratory or hibernating. Basic methodology was reviewed. It was noted that acoustic studies indicate the bat species is absent or present; they do not provide information about the number or condition of bats.
- Recorders were placed on eight selected sites in four towns on July 31 through August 1. Of the eight species expected in New Hampshire, seven were confirmed and one species listed as federally threatened could not be ruled out. The overall presence of bats along the Lamprey and tributaries is well above average compared to most of NH.
- Results will be shared with studied towns and LRAC partners.

approval of minutes from Sept. 11, 2018:

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

financial report:

- FY2018 final numbers were reviewed. The year ended with a surplus. The first two years of the cooperative agreement were reviewed and also ended with a net surplus. FY2019 began Oct. 1.
- Some workgroups noted that expected expenses for FY 2019 exceed budgeted amounts. It was agreed that workgroups need to spend within their allotted budgets. If and when expenses exceed these budgeted amounts, the remainder should go before the full committee for approval of expenditure from the surplus account.
- For budget planning purposes, Jim MacCartney needs an expense “wish list” from each workgroup for FY2020 before December.

land protection update:

A new parcel has become available. Details will be discussed by the land protection group following the full committee meeting.

history:

- Efforts will be made to locate an intern from UNH who could help research deeds and water rights for Lamprey River mills with a goal of better understanding the history of Packers Falls and Sullivan Falls.
- Smaller projects for 2019 include potentially adding history signage at Doe Farm and building an educational package about the local ice industry.

outreach:

- Work on reprinting *Peter Little Bear* continues.
 - Native American educators have been contacted about improving the educational opportunities to learn about Abenaki history and people offered by the book. These will be incorporated into an updated and enhanced section for suggested activities.
 - At least three of the four W&S schools would like a new set of books. Non-W&S towns will be surveyed about using the book for their fourth grade classes. If the schools are interested and will use the books, the committee agreed by consensus to print up to 200 copies and donate a classroom set for free.
- Hammock to 3K Small Grant:
Newmarket Recreation will submit the final report soon. The project had lower participation than projected, leaving a surplus of about \$500 that had been paid up-front. The outreach group agreed to let Newmarket Rec. keep the surplus for use with future Hammock to 3k events or toward the purchase of a freshwater safety kayak. This was also approved by the full committee chair.

recreation:

- Dick Lord nominated Jerry Martin to serve as recreation chair at the recreation meeting. Cynthia Kelsey seconded. Nomination was approved unanimously.

- Key activities for 2019:
 - Complete the Thompson Forest kiosk panel.
 - Revise the rec map to include the Lee Public Canoe Access and Schoppmeyer Park. Place the updated map on the website and add stickers to already-printed maps referring to the website.
 - Pursue more activities for paddling, walking, and cycling.

project review:

- A culvert replacement project in Raymond resulted in wetlands and shoreland applications. Metal pipes will be replaced with plastic pipes. The group recommended natural bottoms to facilitate wildlife passage.
- A shoreland application for a site in Epping was reviewed. The project will also entail wetlands and alteration of terrain permits. Comments focused on lack of stormwater details and lack of post-construction maintenance plan. Potential wildlife issues were also noted.

water quality:

The group has not met recently, but some guidance should be offered to a prospective student analyst regarding a suitable project.

wildlife:

- Josh Megyesy from NH Fish & Game joined the meeting to discuss several opportunities to improve understanding of rare turtles along the river. He will draft a range of proposals that could be used as the basis of potential grant applications. The full committee might want to consider purchasing 1 or 2 GPS tracking units prior to grant submission.
- An interesting article in *Science Findings* explains how variable and complex water temperature in rivers can be. Copies will be emailed to all.

LRWA update:

Sam DeMeritt reported that the group's annual meeting/supper will be held on Nov. 8. Details were shared with all representatives.

town updates: Nothing to report.

other:

- W&S Rivers update: Jim reported that a snapshot of water quality in all W&S Rivers was recently released. Findings suggest that water quality in what should be America's best rivers is frequently in an impaired status. This could be a strong opportunity to find extra funding for improvement. He will share the link with all.
- future meetings: After a short discussion, it was agreed by consensus that future meetings that conflict with voting days, mainly March for local elections and September for primaries, will convene on the THIRD Tuesday. Most representatives prefer to continue to meet on the second Tuesday.

- bat study payment: As a result of the budget discussion and decision to hold workgroups to their fiscal year budget, **Dick Lord made a motion to appropriate funding not covered in wildlife's FY2019 budget from the FY2018 surplus to cover the full cost of the bat study. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**
- honorarium for recreation event assistance: Members of the recreation group were polled to determine whether a \$100 honorarium should be offered to the wetlands expert who will serve as the wildlife guide for the Epping to Lee paddle on Oct. 13. All group members supported the idea. For purposes of financial tracking, he will be asked to submit an invoice.
- request for committee opposition for a large proposed project: Per discussion in September, the committee prefers to remain neutral so as not to impair its standing on official project reviews.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Cris Blackstone seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.