

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2017  
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

**APPROVED NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Al Hall (Candia), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Cynthia Kelsey (excused), Sharon Meeker (excused), Elizabeth Dudley (excused), Michelle Shattuck (excused), Deb McNelly (excused)

Meeting began at 7:03.

**Summary of motions:**

**Anne Lightbody made a motion to transfer \$15,000 from unexpended FY2017 operating budget funds to the land protection account at SELT. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.**

**approval of minutes from Sept. 12, 2017:**

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Minutes were approved with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention.

**financial report:**

Reports for year-to-date, bank statement, book sales, and land protection account were reviewed. With the start of a new fiscal year, 45% of FY2017 remains unexpended. A discussion ensued about the importance of realigning the W & S budget to more clearly reflect actual expenses and line items for FY2019. There was a consensus that the line items for land protection and water quality should be increased and that grant administration should be reduced. While support for increased land protection was high, a suggestion was made that the committee consider amending its land protection criteria to include public access.

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**workgroup updates:**

**LRWA:**

- The newly-hired executive director has resigned to pursue work more closely related to his expertise. The LRWA will explore amending the job responsibilities and seek a new executive director.
- Revising the strategic plan is in process, with a probable focus on clean water.
- The upper watershed litter clean-up will take place on Saturday, Oct. 14. The group has made a big effort to engage families via the schools.
- The annual meeting / spaghetti supper is planned for Friday, Oct. 27 at the Jeremiah Smith Grange Hall in Lee. All are welcome.

land protection:

A few new potential projects seem to be coming to light, but nothing needs immediate attention.

outreach:

- A UNH student is volunteering to get the LRAC Face Book page updated and is revising the cover of the *Lamprey River Curriculum*.
- The website had some administrative issues recently. It appears to be taking an inordinate amount of bandwidth and is not supporting up-to-date cyber security. The hosting agency has moved it to an old server and has strongly suggested that LRAC make plans to update and fund a new website. Details have been requested from the host. Attendees suggested several websites that LRAC might want to emulate.
- The York River W&S study group has requested LRAC presence at its upcoming meetings as it nears the next big step toward W&S designation. The NPS strongly encourages support from LRAC in this endeavor. Two LRAC representatives will attend the October 24 meeting. Future meetings will be attended by the LRAC outreach specialist with LRAC's financial support.
- The Mast Way Elementary School field trip will take place on October 20 at Mary Blair Park. LRAC representatives were encouraged to observe for future field trips.

recreation:

- The project to relocate woody material between the Rte. 87 bridge and Wadleigh Falls to enable canoe passage still has not commenced. Trout Unlimited headquarters has indicated that it is willing to work on this project, but several delays have occurred even recently. The recreation workgroup agreed that additional delays in getting the contract signed are not in the best interest of the project, so TU was given a deadline to sign the contract or we will find another partner.
- SELT reported that the proposed Rum Brook bridge on Diamond Hill Road in Epping needs further research, so a presentation and Q&A session will be postponed until December or January. Some concern was noted that SELT's plans for this site and other sites might not be entirely compatible with LRAC's goals for the site and the larger foot path concept.

- The Epping Conservation Commission has identified several problems with access at the Route 87 canoe landing: the pavement at the ramp is heavily eroded, the rip-rap area is becoming overgrown with weeds, and the kiosk needs structural improvements. A joint ECC and LRAC site visit has been planned for October 24 at 5:00 P.M. All LRAC reps are encouraged to participate.

project review:

No projects have been submitted for review.

water quality:

A UNH student has been contracted to do statistical analyses on historic data for turbidity, specific conductance, and *E. coli*. He will be supervised by Anne Lightbody. The committee chair signed the agreements and work can commence immediately. The cost will be based on hourly work with an upper limit of \$2000.

wildlife:

Nothing new to report.

town updates:

Nothing new to report.

stream crossing study follow-up:

- The Raymond director of Public Works currently has other more pressing priorities and does not have the time to find a fit between his project list and the LRAC partners' proposal.
- Epping DPW will not be pursuing stream crossing projects due to the complicated nature of this partnership.

other:

- Clarification about whether the Eversource Great Bay crossing project is in the jurisdiction of LRAC was requested. As noted before, the project is outside the quarter mile corridor, so LRAC has no direct standing.
- Attendees were advised that HB486 is due to emerge from legislative deliberations soon. This bill is intended to mandate a 100 foot buffer around High Value Wetlands; however, the added cost of determining not just a wetland boundary but also its value, is a challenge for the state, towns and landowners/developers.
- The *Twenty Years of Progress* report has been published. Despite valiant attempts to create a complete and error-free document, a big omission was found when copies were handed out for distribution: the land protection map is missing the legend. Stickers with an abbreviated legend will be produced and added to the lower right corner of the map prior to distribution to the towns and partners.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43.

**Outreach, History, & Rec Meeting Notes  
October 4, 2017**

present: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel

guest: Whitman Constantineau

Face Book updates:

Whitman has resized the logo so that it fits the image space and added background. He will switch the format from individual to entity; this will allow people to “follow” us rather than having to make a “friend” request. He will have LRAC follow several conservation commissions and SELT on Face Book to get us started. Suzanne requested a cheat sheet for use later after Whitman has moved on.

Curriculum cover update:

The current cover is too heavy with unnecessary text and is not visually inviting. Whitman is working on revising the cover making use of colors in the logo. Much of the current text will be moved to the inside cover.

website:

Suzanne had difficulty recently loading new content. After trouble shooting by Altos (the website host), it was determined that the LRAC website is very data dense and is taking up an inordinate amount of bandwidth for a small entity. It was also determined that the website is not able to support current software and anti-hacking technology. Altos has moved the website to its oldest server and warned that if the LRAC website has further issues, it could take down that server. Suzanne has since removed several years' worth of older meeting minutes and similar material that probably is not widely viewed.

Altos is recommending that LRAC give serious consideration to updating to a new website. This will take a lot of time and money, based on previous experience.

Altos will be contacted for details:

- How many people are accessing the site?
- What content areas are they accessing? What are the popular topics?
- What is the actual size of the website?
- If we go to a free or inexpensive host such as Word Press, can we avoid having advertisers hitchhike?
- What are the price options for websites of similar organizations?

signage for Thompson Forest, Durham:

- One person favored a more elaborate sign similar to what was done at Wiswall.
- One person favored letting Durham decide what to do with little or no input from LRAC.
- Three people favored an intermediate sign that includes the property name, trail map, simple history of the site, and list of major donors.
- Need to determine what Durham is proposing and if LRAC help, funding, or both are requested.

Schoppmeyer Park, Newmarket:

- Sign proposed will be a slanted panel similar to Mary Blair Park history panels. Placement will be in the entrance garden.
- Some misunderstandings have occurred over landscaping design and timing.
- DES has a standard dock system that is appropriate for in-river placement, but it is not appropriate for the inlet at the park. Delays will probably occur.
- Overall, park will probably be finished for spring 2018.
- Preston noted that the park would serve nicely as gathering site for his wooden canoe club event next year. Is the church amenable to allowing over-flow parking?

curriculum:

- Sharon will be working with the principal at Newmarket Elementary School.
- A 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Stratham is interested in using the curriculum to supplement an ambitious unit in environmental science.

20 Year Progress Report:

100 copies have been printed and are ready for distribution.

woody material relocation project:

Call from local TU indicates that headquarters is willing to move forward with the project. No contract has been signed and TU seems to be in no rush to get that done as work will not begin until 2018. An extension for the grant is possible, but that seems unlikely if the contract is not signed. Preston will press for getting the contract signed sooner rather than later.

walking path:

Preston was approached by a member of the Epping Cons. Comm. regarding issues at the Route 87 bridge landing. The canoe ramp is heavily eroded. The rip-rap section is becoming overgrown with large vegetation. Launching boats is difficult. The kiosk is showing signs of age. This site might be a good partnership site for LRAC and Epping. A group site review will be arranged.

Rum Brook Bridge:

Attempts to arrange for a presentation by SELT so far have been unsuccessful. (Post script: Details for the bridge still need to be determined. SELT will not be ready to make a presentation until December or January.)

York River W&S Study:

Dick, Mary Ann, and Suzanne attended the historic resources meeting in August. The York committee has requested continuing LRAC presence when possible. The consensus was that Suzanne can attend occasionally, but that LRAC should not be obligated to be a regular presence.

upcoming events:

- Oct. 20, Mast Way School field trip, 9-11:30, Epping
- Oct. 27, LRWA Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Supper, 6:00 Jeremiah Smith Grange Hall, Lee.
- Oct. 31, septic system workshop, 8-noon, Great Bay Discovery Center
- Nov. 15, winter tracks presentation, 6:00, Candia library
- Dec. 8, State of the Estuaries Conference, all day, Portsmouth