

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes October 23, 2014
Smyth Public Library, Candia 7:00 p.m.**

APPROVED NOVEMBER 20, 2014

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer, (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond), Jim MacCartney (NPS liaison), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Al Hall , Harriet Cady (excused), Jenn Rowden (excused), Fred Lindahl, Kitty Miller (excused), Michelle Daley (excused), Peter Wellenberger, Kathleen Hoelzel

guest: Debbie McNelly (Raymond)

Meeting began at 7:25.

summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to inform the RMAC that while the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee members share concerns for protection of the rivers, they do not believe that eliminating exemptions for first, second, and third order streams in RSA 483 are prudent at this time. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed with 10 in favor, 1 against.

approval of minutes from Sept. 25, 2014:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ann Welsh seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

work group updates:

education and outreach:

- Group meeting was not held this month. Next meeting will be Nov. 12, 2014.
- A meeting with the organizer of Raymond's Book Bash will be held Oct. 27 to glean insights for organizing a similar event elsewhere.

history:

- At least 30 people attended the John Hatch Park dedication on Oct. 18 with good representation from Durham government, LRAC, and citizens.
- Future work at Wiswall might include a possible trail with historical signs or placement of markers on the foundation corners. NRCS study data gathered prior to construction of the fish ladder might be helpful.
- Wadleigh Falls needs a better presence on the website. Ask Randy Stevens for permission to use excerpts from his book. Ask Laurel Cox and Dave Meeker for access to their materials. Link to existing Lee Historical Trail information. What actions might NHF&G pursue to improve fish passage over the falls? Might a partnership with NRCS be possible? A meeting with abutters and NH Fish and Game is being organized; no details at present.

land protection:

- Two big projects that have been in process for a long time will probably be completed in early 2015.
- SELT and the Town of Durham are working on a significant project right along the Lamprey that will help to protect Durham's water supply. LRAC might be asked to contribute financially.
- Two activities that do not rely on purchasing land or easements are currently stalled: 1. recognizing land owners who are active stewards of their land and 2. working with owners of conserved land to identify the most valuable assets on their land while enhancing public access.

project review:

- Route 101 NHDOT repaving, Raymond, wetlands permit: Preston Samuel reviewed the package and generally found little of concern. One point that needed clarifying is whether or not the project will involve placement of temporary water diversion structures in the river for the center pier during bridge repair.
- driveway construction to a future house site, Nottingham, expedited wetlands permit: The applicant proposes to construct a driveway and culvert crossing that would impact approximately 330 square feet of poorly drained forested wetland. The driveway would be built on previously impacted wetland due to a logging road and spans the wetland at the narrowest crossing. Comments will be limited to acknowledging receipt of the application package without detailed comments.

recreation:

- Epping needs ~~three~~ one more W&S sign ~~Mill Street southbound, Main Street southbound near town hall,~~ and the Blake Road sign needs to be cleared of brush. Joe Foley will be asked to encourage the town road crew to ensure that these signs are taken care of. Preston Samuel offered to clear the brush near Blake Road if the town DPW gives its consent.
- Woody material group is in a lull right now. Jim MacCartney needs to refine the field evaluation form. ~~simplify to mitigation methods if material is relocated and perhaps convert to checklist format similar to that used by the land protection group?~~ Regardless, good documentation will be needed as a record of any actions taken and why. Sharon Meeker would like to see a plan or a conclusion to the study effort soon.
- Blue Trails webinar: Preston Samuel and Dawn Genes participated. It was basically a walk-through of the American Rivers website www.bluetrailsguide.org. Preston found it not particularly helpful other than offering a few case studies.
- Future canoe launches need to follow best practices that ensure canoes reach the water in a position that is parallel to the river's flow.
- Proposal to fund a professional recreation plan: The draft was reviewed and some edits were offered. A key question is the scope of the project: full main stem Lamprey, upper main stem, inclusion of tributaries? Should the plan itself focus on improving existing public access points or think farther ahead to securing key sections of private land for an extensive trail system or detailed canoe tour? What pieces of the plan should be printed as part of a static plan? What pieces should be web-based only to accommodate changes over the short term?

- Dick Snow suggested inviting the public to be involved. Certainly, riparian landowners need to be consulted before any work is considered, but involving the public at large will be a different matter. Timing will be critical.

water issues:

The Wild and Scenic Subcommittee has approved funds to hire a student to perform data analysis. The work group is preparing a request for applications and scope of work.

wildlife:

The group is awaiting the final report from a study of rare mussels that was performed this past summer. Preliminary findings show that only 5 brook floater mussels were found in an area that was larger than previous studies. Elliptio mussels remain common, especially in Epping and Newmarket. The report is due Feb.1, 2015. The researcher, Ethan Nedeau, will be asked to present the report to the expanded committee. The public will be welcome to attend.

Wild and Scenic Subcommittee: Nothing to report that was not reported above.

town issues and actions:

- Raymond: The May 10 downtown charrette identified a large lot on the river in downtown that is for sale and would be perfect for a community park, canoe access, and floodplain protection. It is located near the Rail Trail across the street from the tannery brownfields restoration site. The site is eligible for two grants, but one carries a condition that the land must have a conservation easement. The conservation commission members normally favors deed restrictions rather than conservation easements, but they have voted to continue to explore this option. The selectmen have also given the go-ahead for continued exploration. The town overall seems to be opening to the idea of the river as a resource for both recreation and economic enhancement, especially downtown.
- Candia: The issue of the closed landfill is coming to an end. NHDES has issued a permit allowing the town to cap waste material currently sitting atop the old capped material. Dick Snow noted that monitoring of the site will end in the near future, but he will be requesting that monitoring continue into the foreseeable future.

events:

October 17, John Hatch Park at Wiswall Falls dedication, Durham
 October 26, Lamprey River Big Tree walk with Kevin Martin, Epping
 October 29, Berry Brook neighborhood meeting and green infrastructure retrofit tour, Dover
 November 11, Wild & Scenic Subcommittee meeting, Lee
 November 15, LAC workshop on project review process, Concord
 November 19, history, rec, outreach work group meetings, Durham

Rivers Management Advisory Council recommended changes to RSA 483:

Follow-up to discussion in October with Jacquie Colburn re: recommended change to NHRMPP to eliminate exemptions for first, second, and third order streams from Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act review criteria.

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Great Bay article reprinting:

Dick Snow has secured reprint permission from UNH. High quality reprints that also include LRAC information can be obtained for \$3-5 per copy. Sharon Meeker will seek a few other quotes and proceed with getting copies. These will be available at the LRAC display table and will be provided to the conservation commissions of the 14 towns.

membership update:

Membership is down. Dick Snow is working with Nottingham to get a representative. It was noted that DES can send a letter to towns noting vacancies on the LRAC and asking for representatives to be appointed. Such a letter might carry more influence than a request from the advisory committee.

location for future meetings:

It was noted that Candia is quite a long drive for most committee members and a more central location was suggested. Dick Snow has reserved the library in Candia through January 2015, but meetings can be scheduled elsewhere at any time.

adjournment:

Ann Welsh made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.