

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes October 24, 2013
Nottingham Town Hall 7:00 p.m.**

APPROVED JAN. 23, 2014

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Harriet Cady (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer, Fred Lindahl (Fremont), Preston Samuel (Lee), Alison Watts (Newfields), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Mike Russo (Nottingham), Ted Janusz (Raymond), Suzanne Petersen (staff), Al Hall (prospective member)

absent: Rachel Stevens (excused), Jenn Rowden (excused), Jere Beckman (excused), Sharon Meeker (excused), Kitty Miller (excused), Peter Wellenberger (excused), Kathleen Hoelzel

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of Motions:

Mike Russo nominated Ann Welsh to serve as committee secretary. Anne Lightbody seconded. Ann Welsh was elected unanimously.

Joe Foley made a motion for LRAC to write a letter to DES urging them to enforce the conditions stated in the dredge and fill permit issued to Liquid Planet regarding conservation land. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed with 13 yes votes, 1 abstention, and 1 no vote.

Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2013

Members requested a few amendments to the draft minutes:

Dawn Genes is an associate member and Suzanne Petersen is staff. They should be listed under members, not guests. The motion to write a letter in support of a conservation easement in Nottingham should be addressed to NRCS, not the developer.

Dick Lord made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Fred Lindahl seconded. Minutes were passed with 10 yes votes, 3 abstentions, and 2 no votes.

Signing of the 2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan

Members signed page 4 of the management plan. Other signatures will be obtained individually.

Highlights of *The Road Less Salted, Water Quality and Salt Reduction Seminar, May 13, 2010* and discussion of actions by the committee

Copies of notes from the seminar were distributed. Members discussed barriers and opportunities for success that the seminar attendees identified. It was agreed that public works departments and road agents would benefit from a workshop with their peers and trainers at UNH's Technology Transfer program to discuss practices that reduce salt and keep roads safe. The first step is to obtain salt use data from all the Lamprey towns. Preston Samuel and Mike Russo will lead on this. Suzanne Petersen will contact other coastal river LACs and see if they are interested in co-sponsoring a workshop. All representatives will contact the road agent in town to determine their interest in the workshop, what month would be best, and what the key factor is that drives salt use decisions (citizen complaints, police calls, budget, etc.).

The workshop will address what salt and sand can and cannot do, why salt reduction is important, tools and technologies that are available to clear roads, RSA 489-C and RSA 508:22 that offer certification and limited liability to private snow plow drivers, and a charrette that explores situations and possible responses.

One member noted that his town planning board has noticed that parking lots often have central drainage. As snow-piles on the edges melt, water runs across the parking lot, and then refreezes, requiring more salting. A change in regulations could help eliminate that problem with future development.

Election of New Officers

Mike Russo reminded the group that tonight is his last as committee chair. Ann Welsh offered to assume the role of committee secretary. **Mike Russo nominated Ann Welsh to serve as committee secretary. Anne Lightbody seconded. Ann Welsh was elected unanimously.**

Joe Foley offered to serve as temporary chair and Mike Russo offered to serve as temporary vice chair through the end of 2013. Members need to step up and be active in this committee. If members do not feel they have the time or ability to serve in a leadership capacity, they need to find new members who might fill those roles. All towns except Durham and Lee have open seats on the committee.

Upcoming Meetings

The committee normally meets the fourth Thursday of the month. Those dates will not work for November and December due to holidays. The committee members agreed to the following meeting dates:

Thursday, November 21

Thursday, December 19

Highlights of NHRMPP Workshop on Oct. 19 in Concord

Suzanne Petersen attended and summarized some key points:

- Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, and Kitty Miller were given longevity awards by the NHRMPP for more than 15 years of service protecting the Lamprey River.
- compliance with NH Right to Know Law
 - Do not use e-mail for discussion or substitute meetings. Limit the use of group e-mail to announcing meeting logistics.
 - Non-public sessions must be noted on agendas in advance of the meeting and must state why a non-public session is needed.
 - Meeting announcements must be available in at least 2 public places at least 24 hours in advance.
- shoreland protection
 - The Administrative Rules Chapter Env-Wq 1400 will expire on July 1, 2016. If anyone has suggestions to clear up gray areas and make the process clearer, please submit these ideas to the Land Resources Management division at DES.
 - The definition of ground cover now specifically excludes lawn, landscaped areas, gardens, and invasive species. This will help to retain native ground cover along the protected shore.
 - DES has recovered the right to inspect properties without prior landowner permission if credible evidence has been received that activities that are regulated by the Shoreland Protection Act are being violated. This does NOT apply to LAC members or the general public. If anyone witnesses a likely violation, please contact DES immediately.
 - The point system for vegetation has been revised to reduce the number of trees, saplings and shrubs that can be cut or trimmed in the protected shoreline.
 - If a lot had an open area prior to 2008 it can continue to be cut. Otherwise, no. Applicants must show that current vegetation cutting complies with current law. Cutting permits issued in 2011 and 2012 are not grandfathered.
- project review
 - If a project involves a homeowners' association, be sure to obtain the draft covenant and suggest guidelines that will limit potential problems, such as the building of sheds on the protected shore or letting dogs run free near the water.
 - If fill will be brought in to the site, request that the fill be from a place without invasive plants.
- future LAC workshops
 - It was suggested that Jacquie Colburn offer regional workshops so that neighboring LACs can work on shared issues and pool resources. Offering tips to get buy-in with management plans was suggested.

subcommittee updates

- outreach:
 - Art for Water recently met with students and adults to create awareness of local and global water shortage issues. Attendees wrote their thoughts or drew pictures on shredded pieces of paper that will be joined to form a waterfall or stream-like art installation. The result is a Stream of Conscience that will be displayed at the new public library in Durham through Dec. 3. This project was funded through a Small Grant awarded by the Wild and Scenic subcommittee.
 - On Saturday, Oct. 26, Kevin Martin will lead participants on a Big Tree Tour along the Lamprey. This was another Small Grant awarded this year.
- history:
 - A fourth panel for the kiosk at Wiswall Falls is being designed that will focus on the contributions of John Hatch and the work of LRWA and LRAC to protect the river and watershed.
- project review:
 - The subcommittee will meet on Thursday, Nov. 7 in the Lee Safety Building.
 - Projects to be reviewed include the Route 108 widening project in Durham and Newmarket, a proposal for a large ground water withdrawal by the Town of Epping, and a permit by notification that DES recently awarded to a project in Raymond.

town updates

- Candia- Dick Snow gave a short presentation about a Notice of Deficiency that was sent by DES to the owners of Liquid Planet for violating the terms of the dredge and fill permit by not conserving land between the facility and the North Branch River. The problem is further complicated by decisions made by the Town of Candia selectmen that prevent the conservation commission from paying for required monitoring of the easement. Dick requested that LRAC write a letter to urge DES to enforce the conditions of the permit. Joe Foley offered to write the letter on behalf of the committee.

Joe Foley made a motion for LRAC to write a letter to DES urging them to enforce the conditions stated in the dredge and fill permit issued to Liquid Planet regarding conservation land. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed with 13 yes votes, 1 abstention, and 1 no vote.

- Candia- Dick Snow reported that DES has mandated the closure of the New Boston Road Incinerator Site. DES has approved a closure plan for the site that includes removing 4000 yards (5000 tons) of solid waste

composed mostly of incinerator ash. The town is seeking a waiver to leave the incinerator ash berm on site, level it, and cap it.

- Raymond- Ted Janusz reported that a permit by notification has been issued by DES for a paving truck depot to be built right next to a steep slope that abuts the Lamprey. Ted expressed his consternation that the neither the town nor LRAC was given the opportunity to comment. Preston Samuel offered to review the plans and bring it to the project review subcommittee meeting on Nov. 7. This project has been discussed by LRAC before, but it was never presented as an official permit request. If any prior paperwork or meeting notes exist, they will be brought to the meeting.

other

- Alison Watts reported that the Green Infrastructure workshop discussed at the September meeting will be directed to selectmen and planning boards. It is tentatively scheduled for spring.
- Representatives were reminded that the Lamprey River Instream Flow Management Plan will be presented on Nov. 6 at the Lee Safety Building from 9:30 to noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

adjournment

Mike Russo made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12.