

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED MARCH 19, 2019

representatives present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Anne Lightbody, Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller (Lee), Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Therese Thompson (Nottingham), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:03.

approval of Minutes from October 9, 2018:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jerry Martin seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

- Bank reconciliation, budget YTD, book sales, and land protection account reports were reviewed with no concerns noted.
- A request was made to have the bookkeeper add a line for unexpended funds from previous years.

outreach update:

- Mast Way School had its annual Lamprey River field trip on October 19.
- *Peter Little Bear* has been shared with the NH Commission on Native American Affairs for recommendations to improve teacher activities that are more inclusive of Abenaki culture and history.
- The LRAC has been invited to speak at the Nov. 14 Raymond Area Rotary Club.
- The LRAC has been accepted to lead two classes on the Lamprey River next spring through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for people aged 50 and older.

history update:

- The Thompson Forest kiosk will have a short history and a note indicating that additional information will be available at www.lampreyriver.org.
- Durham will be focusing on Doe Farm recreational improvements in 2019. Plans include a kiosk, trail improvements, and more pro-active management.

recreation update:

- Rivers for Change [501(c) (3)] has a mission to connect businesses and non-profits to bring awareness about rivers. Their work is funded 100% by local sponsors. The group contacted Seven Rivers to work together on a Lamprey River project, the exact topic to be identified by the local community, as suggested by LRAC. The project is projected to take place in late spring 2019. Community members, largely kids who participate in recreation department programs in partnership with Seven Rivers, will join organizers for 2 weekend day trips, 2 school visits, and 1 public paddle.

The LRAC will be asked to share knowledge of the river, identify contacts along the river, and suggest a project. Two projects were identified immediately:

- Amass a collection of photos all along the river, from source to sea.
- Assess the recently completed canoe passage enhancement area between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls and perform any light trimming that might be needed.

This project could be repeated by LRAC in the future. A separate Lamprey River website is being developed for this project. Video documentation of the project can be shared with non-paddlers to enhance their appreciation and understanding of the river. A representative from Rivers for Change will attend the December meeting to meet the outreach-rec-history group to clarify goals and procedures and answer questions.

- The public paddle between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls took place on October 13. Eight people, including 3 novices, paddled for almost 3 hours. The river was flowing at 315 CFS, the temperature was 38°F and it was raining. For safety's sake, the decision was made to start and end at the Lee Public Canoe Access rather than attempt to start in Epping. All paddlers easily got past the first two treated areas, but the third was tricky with the higher flow and abundant brush. Newmarket Recreation kindly provided three free kayaks.
- The Hammock to 3k Small Grant final report was shared and reviewed. Although the project was not overly successful, the concept remains good and Newmarket Recreation will probably offer a similar program next year.

wildlife update:

- Redacted versions of the bat report have been shared with the conservation commissions from Raymond, Nottingham, Lee, and Epping. Redacted reports for the general public have been shared through town e-news and the website.
- Video footage of the David Carroll interview from 2009 is in LRAC's possession. There is a strong desire to use this material for at least two

videos, one about NH turtles and one about David Carroll as artist and philosopher. The National Park Service might be able to help us find a suitable video editor.

project review:

- There were no projects to review this month.
- For future reviews, it was recommended that the group not respond to responses from applicants regarding to the group's initial findings unless significant issues merit on-going review.

NHCF canoe passage enhancement grant update:

As noted above in recreation, the public paddle was held in October to experience canoe passage improvements. All outside work has now been completed and the final report needs to be written and submitted. Due to high water in the river, retrieval of the trail cameras might not be possible prior to the final report. The Trout Unlimited project manager will meet next week to determine specifics regarding TU's reporting obligations and how those mesh with LRAC's reporting obligations to NHCF.

LRWA update:

- Cris Blackstone was approved as LRWA executive director at the October 25th LRWA board meeting. She will be delivering the LRWA update to LRAC from now on and serving as LRWA liaison
- The LRWA Annual Meeting was held on November 8 at the Nottingham Town Hall with featured speakers Dr. Alison Watts on studies of eDNA in river samples and Julie LaBranche from Rockingham Planning Commission on the MS4 permitting process. The group took in \$130 from the dinner, \$90 from the raffle, \$400 in membership fees to date, and additional donations of \$400. Dick Lord provided photograph prints of John Hatch's painting, *Fall on the Lamprey*, and the LRWA board framed them for presentation to the water quality volunteers.

community grants program:

The FY2019 budget includes a new line item of \$19,000 for community grants. These grants replace and expand the outreach Small Grants Program. A draft program description and procedure was shared and discussed. The following key points were made:

- The contact person will be the outreach specialist, not the committee chair.
- The maximum amount of \$5000 should be restated as a guideline of "normally will not exceed", with the committee considering proposals up to \$8000.
- The draft did not contain a deadline for application submission based on experience with the Small Grant Program. A project deadline of September 1 should be considered so that projects are completed before the end of the fiscal year.

- Given the outreach group's experience with Small Grants, it was recommended that the outreach group screen projects and make recommendations for approval to the full committee.
- Concern was noted that communities and non-profits groups should be aware of these grants sooner rather than later so that budgeted funds for 2019 can be expended this year, but others warned that the program should be explicitly defined before invitations are extended for applications.
- All representatives were invited to submit additional suggestions. The draft will be tweaked and reviewed again in December.

annual reports:

A six-page full report and 1 page short version were recently shared electronically with the towns. Several representatives suggested changes. The two reports will be edited for greater clarity and will be available as paper reports that representatives can give to town councils/selectmen during the annual LRAC update.

York River Wild and Scenic votes:

The York River Management Plan and W&S Designation received affirmative votes in York and Eliot in the recent elections. The town councils in Kittery and South Berwick will be voting in the near future.

LRAC letterhead:

The current LRAC letterhead with its small watershed map is difficult to read under the best conditions and is just a blur when printed in black and white. Sample replacement letterhead will be shared with the group and each representative will be asked to select the preferred version for future correspondence.

UNH sustainability fellow:

LRAC or LRWA might want to consider taking on a research fellow from the UNH sustainability program at UNH for a 10 week project this summer. Anne Lightbody volunteered to be the mentor.

hydrology fun fact:

It was noted that the Lamprey River flow gage is measuring record flow levels for Oct./Nov..

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.