

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2017
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED JANUARY 9, 2018

members present: Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), (Candia), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Emily Schmalzer (excused), Al Hall (excused), Anne Lightbody (excused), Kitty Miller, Elizabeth Dudley (excused), Michelle Shattuck (excused), Deb McNelly (excused)

Meeting began at 7:01.

Summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion that LRAC expend \$3000.00 to support the Great Bay Stewards' grant match campaign to create nesting sites for Blanding's turtles along Crommett Creek. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion for the LRAC to expend not more than \$1500.00 for two trail cameras and necessary auxiliary equipment to be charged to the wildlife and recreation line items in the FY2018 budget. Sharon Meeker seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

request for funding, Laura Byergo, Great Bay Stewards:

The Stewards have received a grant for \$5000 to create Blanding's turtle nesting sites along Crommett Creek in an attempt to provide new, safer nesting sites away from roadsides and trails frequented by people. The hope is that baby turtles will return to these sites when they are ready to breed. The grant requires a 100% match before November 30, 2017. The Stewards have begun an on-line funding campaign, but are asking for LRAC support in the amount of \$3000 to ensure that the grant will not be lost.

Dick Lord made a motion that LRAC expend \$3000.00 to support the Great Bay Stewards' grant match campaign to create nesting sites for Blanding's turtles along Crommett Creek. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

approval of minutes from October 10, 2017:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Preston Samuel seconded. Minutes were approved with 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

Bank account activity, year-to-date budget, book sales, and land protection account were reviewed. No problems were noted.

workgroup updates:

land protection:

No meeting was held in October. SELT announced that Duane Hyde will now be the main land protection specialist for LRAC projects.

outreach, history, & recreation:

septic system outreach:

After a lull in activity, this topic still has great value and needs additional effort. It was announced at a recent septic system workshop that the Winnicut River group will be using the LRAC model to educate landowners. Suzanne will ramp up efforts in the Lamprey watershed to do a focus week or month each year and create a reusable resource folder. The Durham Public Works distributes a newsletter that could serve as a good venue.

brick yard video: no update

Face Book overhaul: no update

Mast Way School field trip:

Deb M. was unable to go to the school to prepare students for the field trip as usual, so Suzanne covered. Several possible new outreach ideas were discussed with the 4th grade teachers, including partnering for the Junior Ranger program. Suzanne will follow-up. The day of the field trip had perfect weather, but one of the activity leaders was unable to attend; Emma Lord stepped in to lead the five groups through the Stream Walk activity. Thank you, Emma!

Stratham Elementary School fourth grade project:

Sharon was contacted by a fourth grade teacher from Stratham who is eager to use Lamprey River resources for her ambitious environmental science unit and NH history. A field trip along the Lamprey is planned for spring. Dick summarized his history presentation and shared questions that the students had during his recent visit.

Thompson Forest kiosk:

Ellen Snyder contacted Dick and requested a meeting to discuss the content for the kiosk.

Schoppmeyer Park:

Handicap accessible kayak access is being explored. NHDES has a standard kayak dock protocol that is parallel to shore, but this dock will be in an inlet and a perpendicular format would be preferred. Kiosk content will probably include fishing derby photos.

Rum Brook bridge:

SELT will not be ready to make a presentation to the committee until December or January.

Route 87 bridge canoe area:

The site was reviewed by representatives from LRAC and the Epping Conservation Commission and a preliminary plan was drafted. The Town of Epping will cover some costs and provide most of the labor. LRAC will cover some costs and provide more limited labor. Epping Cons. Comm. has prepared a formal Small Grant proposal that includes the following:

Action 1: Remove brush from rip-rap area. (LRAC, LRWA)

Action 2: Add gravel to the eroded asphalt drop-off at the ramp. (Epping)

Action 3: Upgrade the kiosk roof. (Epping) Replace the existing kiosk panel with an identical new one. (LRAC) Section currently holding pamphlet boxes will be replaced with signage for safety and invasive weeds.

Action 4: Design and install a new kayak ramp parallel to shore using anchored logs (Preston and Kevin Martin). Will require NHDES permit(s). Estimated cost \$3000 or less. (LRAC)

(Action 5: Rehabilitate the riverside trail into the floodplain. LRAC)

project review:

Newmarket, Elementary School Expansion and Site Reconstruction AoT Permit:

key concerns:

- Improvement for run-off pre- and post-construction is marginal as storms approach the 50 year event. What will happen with 100 and 500 year storms? This is especially worrisome, because the receiving waterway is Moonlight Brook, a significant source of urban flooding.
- Maintenance protocol for the stormwater infiltration basin is unclear in the report and missing from the plan.

Newmarket, New Road Drainage Reconstruction Wetlands and AoT Resubmission:

key concerns:

Numerous households in the project area have cellar drains that connect to the existing storm drain system and the engineer has proposed connecting them to the new drainage system. This was noted on earlier comments and still has not been addressed. LRAC desires that these connections be eliminated, or at the very least, have back-flow preventers installed. It was noted that cellar drains often result in transmission of domestic sewage or chemicals into receiving waters, but heavy precipitation can also cause the backflow of contaminated water from streams into houses

Epping, Blake Road Wetlands, for information only:

The proponent sent a letter of intent to LRAC as an abutter to the proposed project. The project appears to be outside the quarter mile corridor of the river. NHDES was notified of the error. No official application has been received by LRAC to date.

Epping, Sewer Treatment Plant Trees removal along Riverbank, update:

The Town of Epping has proposed removing trees along the edge of the WWTF lagoon to comply with NHDES's determination that the WWTF lagoon is actually a dam impoundment. Most of the trees are outside the Lamprey River shoreland and there are no immediate plans to cut. If work actually proceeds, a permit will be needed.

water quality:

Anne Lightbody is remotely supervising the student intern. The group will review his work on December 1.

wildlife:

The group has not met recently. An update from the Stewardship Network was shared that LRAC's original invasive weed tool lending library has been expanded to include conservation tools and all are now housed at SELT's headquarters at Burley Farm.

NH Charitable Foundation Grant:

Canoe passage improvement project:

Trout Unlimited corporate office has signed the contract. Preparatory work, such as contacting landowners, can begin here at the local level. An extension for the NH Charitable Foundation grant will be pursued to coincide with work to be completed in the summer of 2018.

LRWA update:

- The annual dinner netted \$626.00.
- The board is reviewing its VRAP reporting process for potential improvements.
- Strategic planning continues. A new director will be pursued later.
- A social media project consultant has been hired through a donation.
- Judith Spang has joined the board.

town updates:

- Lee now has a person designated as trail coordinator.
Newmarket Town Council will hear plans to raise the Macallen Dam south wall 2 feet rather than 4 feet and upgrade the dam gates. This will be discussed at the Newmarket town council hearing on Dec. 6.

LRAC representatives, committee structure:

- The following representatives are currently on sabbatical: Elizabeth Dudley, Anne Lightbody, Deb McNelly, Michelle Shattuck.
- NHDES will be sending letters requesting representatives from all towns with fewer than two representatives on local river advisory committees.
- A short discussion was held whether the committee should move away from workgroups and toward committee-wide action. It was agreed that the workgroup structure is still preferred.

wildlife cameras:

Dick Lord made a motion for the LRAC to expend not more than \$1500.00 for two trail cameras and necessary auxiliary equipment to be charged to the wildlife and recreation line items in the FY2018 budget. Sharon Meeker seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Twenty Years of Progress report distribution:

The *Twenty Years of Progress* reports are ready for distribution. Each town will receive four copies, with one copy going to the town council/board of selectmen, conservation commission, planning boards, and library. Each report will be accompanied by a letter of introduction and a Wild and Scenic Rivers brochure celebrating 50 years since passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Town councils will also receive the full FY2017 annual report. Representatives will make at least one formal presentation at a regular council meeting. The outreach specialist will make the presentations to towns currently without representatives.

website:

After reporting issues several months ago and receiving no feedback about key questions, the group agreed by consensus to investigate other agencies to

administer licensing and possible upgrades/reconfiguration. The websites of similar groups will be reviewed and referrals requested.

emerging contaminants:

Two representatives recently attended a workshop by Rockingham Planning Commission and learned about perfluorooctanoic acid or PFOAs. Water resources contaminated by PFOA have been associated with releases from manufacturing sites, industrial sites, fire/crash training areas, and industrial or municipal waste sites where products are disposed of or applied.

upcoming events:

- December 1- water quality workgroup meeting
- December 6- outreach, rec, history workgroup mtg, office, 10:00
- December 7- project review meeting, Lee Safety Bldg, 7:00 P.M.
- December 8- State of the Estuaries Conference, Portsmouth

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.