

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes November 20, 2014
Candia Town Hall 7:00 pm**

APPROVED JANUARY 22, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Dick Lord, (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Anne Lightbody, Ann Welsh (excused), Todd Piskovitz (excused), Kitty Miller (excused), Carolyn Matthews (excused)

guests: Tom Chase (Northwood), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield)

Meeting began at 7:03.

summary of motions:

Joe Foley made a motion to support Raymond's acquisition of land adjacent to the Lamprey River for the purpose of providing public access to the waterfront. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Daley made a motion to notify DES about the committee's concerns that the conditions of a wetlands permit issued for a pervious parking lot 13 Water Street in Newmarket might have been disregarded when an asphalt parking lot was installed. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously and Chair Dick Snow will send an email.

Regular Business:

approval of minutes from Oct. 23, 2014:

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

work group updates:

education and outreach: Planning for 2015

- Adopt "Water Connects Us" as a theme for our activities.
- Assess present projects and develop a "package" approach for some. We are beginning with the development of our vernal pool, Lamprey River Curriculum, and possibly our "Hike It, Bike It, Like It" projects.
- Investigate starting a "book bash" project package that would begin small, perhaps working with a town library first.
- Contract a former elementary teacher to work toward getting the curriculum into a prominent place in another school's program for 4th graders.
- Promote the Small Grants program to individuals, educators, and town departments such as conservation commissions.

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:

- The two large projects in which the W&S group is partnered with SELTNH are still in progress and we are looking forward to an update at our next meeting.
- The Wild and Scenic Subcommittee has decided to transfer \$25,000 from the operating budget to the land protection account.
- Work continues with a number of partners on securing 43 acres of land in Durham that not only ranks highly for wildlife protection and coastal management planning, but also protects access to Durham's municipal water supply, much of which comes from the Lamprey.
- Al Hall updated the group present at tonight's meeting about the Town of Raymond's plans to purchase and develop some property along the main stem Lamprey River as a public access area. **Joe Foley made a motion to support Raymond's acquisition of land adjacent to the Lamprey River for the purpose of providing public access to the waterfront. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** A letter will be drafted to send to the Raymond selectmen for their December 1 meeting.

project review:

- initial reviews:
 - 90 Bennett Road, Durham: shoreland permit request to expand parking lot at inn
 - NEPA Main Street crossings, Newmarket
 - NHDOT repaving of Route 101 in Raymond: wetlands permit
 - 17 Moody Point, Newmarket: wetlands permit for rebuilding a boathouse
- response/follow-up:
 - New England Dragway Phase II response and LRAC rebuttal
 - PSNH letter re: LRAC response

recreation:

- We are investigating possibilities of both a land and a blue water trail for the area along the Lamprey River. Interest in the stretch of river between Highway 87 in Epping and the boat landing (WHERE?) continues, although another meeting is needed to make progress.
- The sign and posts for the boat landing on Highway 152 in Lee were installed with the help of Preston Samuel, Dick Lord, Kevin Martin, and one of Anne Lightbody's students. We have already received a letter of appreciation from the Lee Conservation Commission and the Lamprey River Watershed Association.
- We are planning a combination conservation/recreation canoe paddle sometime in the late spring.

water issues: The group did not meet in November.

- The Wild and Scenic Subcommittee voted to provide up to \$2000 for a person to enter water quality data and perform certain tasks needed to make those data accessible the public. At least one candidate has been identified.
- The question was raised regarding how far into the watershed the VRAP volunteers from LRWA sample. Dawn Genes will be asked for clarification.

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:

All pertinent updates are present elsewhere in the minutes from tonight's meeting.

events:

November 28, land protection work group meeting, office
December 4, project review workgroup meeting, Lee
December 9, Wild & Scenic Subcommittee meeting, Lee
December 17, outreach, recreation, history workgroup meeting, office
December, no LRAC meeting for December
January 9, Lamprey River Science Symposium, UNH

New Business:

office:

A small group is researching possibilities for a more accessible office. The current office in Durham is located in the basement of a private home. The air is musty, parking is very limited, and access across sloped lawn in winter is tricky. Sharon Meeker and Dawn Genes are currently leading the search effort with assistance from Suzanne Petersen and Dick Lord. Other people and ideas are welcome. Preliminary thoughts about a new office follow:

- public access to follow ADA criteria as much as possible
- communication services including Wi-Fi, telephone, etc.
- rent not more than \$300 (for LRAC's share --- willing to share with like organizations)
- electricity and perhaps heat provisions
- visibility by the public
- parking for 15 – 20 cars
- office space of at least 12' x 14' with room for fireproof land protection file cabinet, 4-drawer file cabinet, computer desk, some sort of desk, phone, chairs, etc.
- use of a large meeting room with space for 25 people (This office could be shared with another group.)
- shelving for library, current documents, etc.
- storage for event equipment and materials, maps, supplies, etc.
- other????

membership update:

Jenn Rowden has decided not to seek renomination.

town	active representatives
Barrington	0
Brentwood	1
Candia	2
Deerfield	0 (Harriet Cady's term expired Sept)
Durham	3
Epping	1
Exeter	1
Fremont	1
Lee	3
Newfields	0
Newmarket	1
Nottingham	0
Northwood	0
Raymond	1 (Kathy Hoelzel's term expired Oct)
	total representatives= 14 total possible= 56

reviewed projects updates:

Route 108 widening project in Durham and Newmarket update:

Preparations for construction are under way. A legal complaint involving the owner of a business along the route was handled by DOT.

13 Water Street, Newmarket:

It was noted that the crushed sea shell parking lot by the waterfront has been paved. The permit application that the group reviewed specified pervious cover. The project review workgroup did not receive notification from DES that the parking lot would be paved. Representatives are concerned that the permit was either ignored by the property owner or that DES changed the permit and did not notify LRAC. **Michelle Daley made a motion to notify DES about the committee's concerns that the conditions of a wetlands permit issued for a pervious parking lot 13 Water Street in Newmarket might have been disregarded when an asphalt parking lot was installed. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously and Chair Dick Snow will send an email.**

The Lamprey River Science Symposium, January 9, 2015:

All representatives were encouraged to attend.

Rivers Management Advisory Commission legislative proposal to change RSA 483:

Dick Snow shared the letter he sent to RMAC noting LRAC's decision not to recommend eliminating the exemptions for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams along the Lamprey.

DES project review process improvement workshops:

Dick Snow and Preston Samuel attended most if not all of the workshops. Some of the key changes proposed follow:

- DES is trying to go to fully electronic submission of project plans.
- In the future, comments should be addressed to applicants, with DES copied instead of vice versa.
- DOT has proposed that their projects be treated as permits by notification if best management practices can be followed. DES is considering the proposal.

LRAC meetings:

- Representatives voted by consensus to cancel the December meeting.
- The Wild and Scenic Subcommittee has clarified what it is willing to contribute to the expanded committee in terms of funded administrative support. The outreach specialist will continue to attend expanded LRAC meetings, takes notes, and type minutes. Any other activities must be approved by the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee.
- Per the bylaws, a new chair and secretary need to be elected in January of odd years. Given that the committee has no vice chair that position also needs to be filled. Carolyn Matthews and Sharon Meeker have volunteered to work on the nomination work group.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.