

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
combined Wild & Scenic and full committee  
January 10, 2017  
Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road, 7:00**

**APPROVED FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Elizabeth Dudley (Newmarket)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent (all excused): Kitty Miller, Michelle Shattuck, Carolyn Matthews, Deb McNelly

guests: Patrick Reynolds, Dennis Abbott, Richard Shelton (Town of Newmarket Schoppmeyer Park Committee), Sam DeMerritt (Nottingham)

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions passed:

**Dick Lord made a motion to donate \$10,000 from the land protection account to put toward the Schoppmeyer Riverside Park easement. Preston Samuel seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the Wild and Scenic members.**

**Anne Lightbody nominated Joe Foley to serve as chair of the full committee. Dick Lord seconded. All representatives voted in favor.**

**Sharon Meeker made a motion to correct dates to 2017 and renew the 2016 memorandum of agreement with the land protection administrator. Anne Lightbody seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.**

**Dick Lord made a motion to correct dates to 2017, include a cost of living increase of 1.3%, and renew the 2016 memorandum of agreement with the outreach specialist. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.**

Schoppmeyer Park presentation:

- A committee has been formed to honor the memory of Chris Schoppmeyer, Newmarket resident and active community member, wildlife law enforcement official, and former LRAC representative. A 3 acre site has been found along the Lamprey River behind the Newmarket Community Church property on North Main Street. The site would offer park benches and carry-in launching for canoes and kayaks. Parking space for 6-8 vehicles is planned.
- The site is appraised at \$65,000. Cheney Associates has offered \$50,000 to the cause with the promise of another \$50,000 if the town can find \$50,000. The easement near the water will be a permanent easement, while the easement for

the parking area will be a floating easement to accommodate church and town needs.

- The recreation department is considering placing one or two of the kayak racks that they purchased with a W&S passive recreation grant on the site so that kayaks will be available to rent.
- Planning meetings will begin in March and the LRAC is welcome to send a representative. A kiosk will be created; LRAC expertise and assistance was requested.
- The land protection workgroup met and voted unanimously to support \$10,000 toward the easement on the parcel. **Dick Lord made a motion to donate \$10,000 from the land protection account to put toward the Schoppmeyer Riverside Park easement. Preston Samuel seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the Wild and Scenic representatives.**

approval of minutes from Dec. 13, 2016:

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

financial report:

- Activity in the operating account, year-to-date budget, and land protection accounts were reviewed with no concerns noted.
- A new statement of activity was added to show book sales for *Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure*. The account is starting with a net loss and revenue will be used to show return on investment.

housekeeping issues:

- Having separate meetings for the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee and the full committee does not seem to be a productive use of time.
- When issues that pertain to Wild and Scenic management arise, middle and upper watershed representatives will be welcome to participate in discussions, but will need to abstain from voting.
- Representatives attending were polled about a preferred meeting place or places. By consensus the group agreed to have meetings on Tuesday evening at the Lee Safety Complex. Having meetings in other towns seemed like a good idea, but it did not attract any new representatives as hoped. If more representatives from outer towns can be recruited, the location of the monthly meeting can be revisited.
- Per the bylaws, elections for chair and secretary are to be held in January of odd numbered years. **Anne Lightbody nominated Joe Foley to serve as chair of the full committee. Dick Lord seconded. All representatives voted in favor.** The current secretary indicated she would like to step down from this duty; no other representative volunteered. Suzanne Petersen agreed to perform this duty in addition to her other duties. Elizabeth Dudley offered to assist if needed.

Town of Raymond request for LRAC letter of support for grant application:

Raymond will be seeking a grant to help pay for a wildlife inventory of the new eco-center grounds. Given LRAC's substantial help in getting signs for the trail, Raymond is asking for LRAC's help to continue the good work planned. The group agreed by consensus to provide the letter. A draft has already been written and will be signed by the chair.

agreements with committee contracted specialists:

- **Sharon Meeker made a motion to correct dates to 2017 and renew the 2016 memorandum of agreement with the land protection administrator. Anne Lightbody seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to correct dates to 2017, include a cost of living increase of 1.3%, and renew the 2016 memorandum of agreement with the outreach specialist. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by Wild and Scenic representatives.**
- Details need to be worked out for the grants administrator. A proposal will be drafted and shared with the grants management officers for committee review and vote in February.
- The chair will meet with SELT to discuss details for SELT staff time memorandum. Vote will be held in February.

proposal from Trout Unlimited for improving canoe passage:

- The current proposal totaling almost \$5500 covers site review and problem strategy, field work removing large wood obstacles, documentation, and outreach. It does not currently include an additional \$2000 that would probably be needed to secure landowner permission and release from liability as well as obtaining any necessary permits.
- The recreation workgroup will review the amended proposal and possible grants to help pay for the work on Feb. 1 and then make its recommendation to the committee on Feb. 14.
- A committee representative asked how long this work would keep the river open for paddling. Based on observations by the woody obstacles team, 80-90% of the wood is probably stable and will not be mobilized in a flood. Any work that is undertaken to remove obstacles will probably hold for 5-10 years.
- The committee should be concerned with the return on investment with this project. How can we determine how many people use the river once it is passable? Or, how can we determine how many people do not paddle this stretch because it is so difficult to pass?

adjournment:

Al Hall made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **Outreach, Recreation, and History Workgroup Meeting Notes January 4, 2017**

present: Dick Lord, Debbie McNelly, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen

recreation 2017 work plan review:

- Most items are on-going, so little change needed.
- Some new items were added:
  - Support Newmarket's Splash and Dash as we can.

- Work with the wildlife workgroup to organize aquatic weed survey of the Piscassic confluence area.
- Look for opportunities to work with landowners to improve en-route portages where needed.
- Temporarily shift goal to work with Lee for a kiosk at Wadeigh Falls to work with Newmarket for a kiosk and other potential planning at the soon-to-be Riverside/Schoppmeyer Park. Dick will be meeting with the Newmarket group this week to discuss possibilities. A rep from Newmarket will attend the next W&S meeting to make a presentation preceding the vote to donate \$10,000 toward the easement.
- FY 2017 budget allocates \$800 in flexible spending for recreation.

outreach:

- Debbie is making inroads with Raymond, Deerfield, and Newmarket for exploring the *Lamprey River Curriculum*. She will be at Mast Way School May 8-11 preparing for the field trip on May 12 at Mary Blair Park.
- Sharon continues to investigate reprinting *Peter Little Bear*.
- An introduction to aquatic weeds was suggested as a possible topic for LRAC continuing education. Suzanne will contact DES about a speaker.

history:

DES contacted the committee regarding possible historic signage at Mendum's Pond Dam. Emails indicated an interest in pursuing this and Durham Historic Association shared some material. This opportunity was not discussed at the meeting, but it needs to be addressed.

miscellaneous:

- Raymond is applying for a grant from the NH Schoolyard Program to fund a bioinventory of the elementary school eco-center. They have asked for a letter of support from LRAC, to be discussed at the meeting on Jan. 10. Suzanne offered advice on shoring up the draft proposal.
- The wildlife workgroup seems to be stalled currently. The January W&S/LRAC meeting seems to have a full agenda already, but it was suggested that February might be a good time to discuss how to reenergize the group, especially since the committee has had a recent influx of representatives who are interested in ecology. The FY 2017 budget includes \$5700 for wildlife.

**Project Review Workgroup Meeting Notes  
January 5, 2017**

attending: Joe Foley, Al Hall, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel

Newmarket, New Road Drainage Improvements Revised Wetlands Application

No significant changes were noted. Preston will send a letter stating we have no additional comments.

Newmarket, New Road Drainage Improvements Alteration of Terrain Application

Most comments were minor, with one key exception: the proponent suggested connecting numerous home drains to the new drainage system. The group suggested that all such connections be eliminated to reduce the risk of sewage or household chemicals from houses' being sent directly to the river.

Mendum's Pond Dam update (signage and historic preservation)

The dam repair engineer sent an email to Preston asking for LRAC's help with text for a sign at the dam. He replied suggesting a simple sign. The group discussed and suggested seeing what might be done for something a bit more descriptive with input from the Durham Historic Association and historical resources that might be available through the towns of Nottingham and Barrington. Suzanne will write a quick synopsis of material provided by DHA and will seek input from Nottingham and Barrington. Preston will contact the dam engineer to put a temporary hold on the simple sign and ask about the timeline for a more robust sign.

Candia, Auto storage gravel pad final communication:

DES sent a letter to the applicant requesting more details, including potential "high load" use which would require a source control plan that probably eliminates the possibility for gravel or other surface that allows infiltration. The applicant also must delineate proximity to the Lamprey on the plans and include a note that project limits cannot be modified without an amendment coordinated by DES and LRAC. The project currently is only feet away from the quarter mile corridor.

Durham, Seacoast Reliability Project communication with Mary Woodward of Lee, NH

LRAC was asked to be a presence at public hearings and reviews for this project. Although cross channel work might impact the estuary and ultimately impact the Lamprey River, the project is outside the Lamprey River corridor. The LRAC declined to get involved directly.

Epping, Mast Road residential lot Wetland Permit Application

The owner of this 4 acre lot desires to place a mobile home on a concrete pad just outside the demarked forested wetland line. A wetlands permit is required so that a driveway to the house can be built. The group agreed that Preston should draft a letter emphasizing the presence of rare turtles and plants, that the lot is very wet, and the need for an AoT.

Epping, Sig Sauer Fire Pond final response

Per email from Dori Wiggin Jan. 5, 2017:

"I have not yet issued the permit. I intend to put a work timing restriction condition on the permit to prevent impacts to the turtles."

Epping, Zampa Restaurant

LRAC's efforts to recommend treatment for stormwater and dumpster issues were unsuccessful due to the language of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Letters have been sent to legislators noting the issue. It was suggested that the Town of Epping might be able to require the restaurant to place the dumpster in the area where run-off could be captured and treated prior to issuing the business license.

miscellaneous:

Preston has received several projects to review that have been in electronic form only. It was noted that NHDES requires an electronic version for its purposes. LACs consisting of volunteers are not in a position to handle strictly electronic applications: printing out pages is expensive (both in terms of paper and toner), storing these data-dense files takes a lot of space on personal computers, computer screens in homes are usually not capable of seeing details in the context of the whole project, and keeping software up-to-date is not practical for volunteers. Preston will contact Tracie to request paper copies for review purposes.