

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes April 26, 2012  
Torrent Hall, Raymond 7:00 p.m.**

**Approved May 24, 2012**

members present: Ellen Conklin, Steve Conklin (Barrington), Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Wes Golomb (Deerfield), Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Fred Lindahl (Fremont), Jere Beckman, Sharon Meeker (Lee), Alison Watts (Newfields), Peter Wellenberger (Newmarket), Bonnie Winona-Mackinnon (Nottingham), Pat Bower , Ted Janusz (Raymond).

Quorum? Yes, 10 towns, 15 representatives

guests: Suzanne Petersen

excused: Dick Snow, Harriet Cady, Jenn Rowden, Michelle Daley, Mike Russo, Kathleen Hoelzel

absent:, Bill Hall, Rich Kelley, Kitty Miller

Resigned: Jim Hadley, Jim Hewitt

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m..

Minutes of March 22, 2012

Dick Lord made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Fred Lindahl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Management Plan Progress:

Sharon Meeker led a discussion about what the committee has accomplished in the first 6 months of work: informational meeting, organizational details, bylaws created and passed, vision drafted, nitrogen issues discussed, and water issues introduced.

This led to a discussion of what remains to be done in the near future and up to three years ahead:

- address and work on lowering excess nitrogen in the rivers and Great Bay
- locate and secure funding to support normal committee business and efforts to address problems
- follow legislative activity and build consensus to participate as appropriate
- write the river management plan and get it approved by the 14 towns
  - talk with key commissions/boards and individuals, ie. planning
  - identify questions to ask and how to approach groups/individuals
  - review town plans and what pertains to the rivers
  - review town regulations

- review the NHRMMP nomination folder and the 2007 Management Plan Revision to identify gaps, needs, and opportunities
- survey riparian land owners to identify their needs, concerns, and attitudes
  - review surveys and research papers by Erika Washburn and Mary Roberts. Sharon will obtain and share with Peter Wellenberger, Jere Beckman, Pat Bower, Joe Foley, and Alison Watts.
  - participate in and follow the results of the Governor's Commission on Water.... citizen input session is scheduled for May 8 at Hugh Gregg Center at the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland.
  - obtain a copy of PREP's survey for Great Bay resident attitudes that will take place in the near future
- obtain land conservation maps from the regional planning offices and county conservation districts to create a strategy for coordinating efforts to build effective blocks of conservation land among the towns
- research the system used by Vermont communities to review project requests as a community team *before* a complete application is received. This was suggested at a recent NH Rivers Council presentation as an effective way to improve the process of developing and reviewing projects for both applicants and reviewers.

#### Vision Statement Vote:

Harriet Cady reported to Sharon Meeker that she received the vision statement just recently and has not has time to review it. Harriet requested that the vote be delayed until May. The members present agreed to wait until May to vote.

The various taglines that were suggested at March's meeting were reviewed and further refined. **Emily Schmalzer made a motion to approve "Protecting the rivers that connect our 14 communities" as the new tagline. Bonnie Winona-Mackinnon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### Project Review Sub-committee Report:

- The letter to the United Veterans' Club in Raymond was sent in late, but Pat Bower spoke with the project engineer and made him aware of the comments.
- A letter of response was received from the Buckingham Heights project in Epping. It indicated that the committee's concerns would be considered. The committee is still very concerned with the number of lots planned with individual septic systems in an area so rich in wetlands and ponds. A suggestion was made that the developer consider a home owners' association septic system as an alternative to individual systems.

#### Handbook Additions:

- RSA 483 is the enabling legislation for the committee. It is frequently modified to reflect new rivers added to the NHRMMP. Future updates will be available at the NHRMMP website.
- At the statewide LAC meeting that was held in Concord, representatives were told that they would have 14 days from receipt of a project application to inform the appropriate staff at DES that comments would be submitted. The final review

must be received by DES within 25 days. (The LAC also receives a copy of the application to DES from the applicant. The LAC has 7 days to request missing materials from the applicant and inform DES of applicant's failure to send a copy to the LAC.) Attendees noted that this process is unwieldy and yields rushed comments.

#### Logo:

Logo revisions prepared by the designer of the original Wild and Scenic logo were shared with members. Per copyright law, the committee does not own the logo design, only the right to use the design. As such, nobody but the original designer can modify the design. After discussion, **Ellen Conklin made a motion to request a new logo from a different designer. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** Todd Piskovitz will request a design from his volunteer designer.

#### Miscellaneous:

- The Southeast Watershed Alliance will meet on May 9 at 7:00 at the Newington Town Hall. Members will be discussing developing a stormwater ordinance for all towns in the Great Bay/ Piscataqua region watershed as a step toward watershed-wide planning. They will also discuss a proposal to fund the UNH Stormwater Center to work with municipalities on their issues.
- A member asked about the coalition of towns with WWTFs that is suing NH DES for its numeric nitrogen loading criteria for Great Bay. Should the LRAC submit a letter of comment in this dispute? From the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the LRAC has no immediate standing with the coalition, as none of the LRAC towns is in the coalition. It was noted that the coalition's goal is less focus on and regulation of WWTFs, not to delay addressing the range of nitrogen issues facing Great Bay. Rather than focusing the committee's attention on the dispute over numeric criteria of nitrogen in WWTF effluent, it was suggested that the focus be on moving forward with watershed restoration.
- The Wild and Scenic sub-committee has produced a DVD about vernal pools. It is now available on the website and representatives were asked to deliver copies to town libraries and cable access channels.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Wiswall Dam fish ladder will be held Thursday, May 3 at 10:00.

#### Adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Ellen Conklin seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Petersen.