

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 21, 2019
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED JUNE 18, 2019

members present: John Wallace (Barrington), Al Hall (Candia), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ric Raymond (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Jason Settineri (Lee), Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Therese Thompson (Nottingham), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Jim MacCarthy, Suzanne Petersen

Summary of Motions Passed:

Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to remove LRWA's request for funding from consideration under the Community Grants program and award up to \$2500 for printing and mailing of two newsletters to be charged against the budget line for unexpended funds from FY 2018. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the bylaws amendments as presented. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of Minutes from April 16, 2019:

Al Hall made a motion to amend the minutes by adding recommendations made by Trout Unlimited regarding canoe access between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls. Dick Lord seconded. Amendment passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

financial report:

Copies of the year-to-date budget and bank reconciliation report were shared. No concerns were noted.

work group updates:

See attached summaries.

LRWA update:

A memorandum of agreement (written by LRWA but not previously reviewed by LRAC) for Community Grant funding for newsletters was shared with an expressed goal of approval tonight. Several shortcomings were noted as being inconsistent with the goals of the Community Grants program.

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budget line for unexpended funds from FY 2018. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

town updates:

- Nottingham: Coltsfoot, an invasive wetlands plant, was recently discovered along a dirt road. Initial attempts to remove and contain it have been undertaken. A suggestion was made to request volunteer help from Nature Groupie.
- Raymond:
 - The Raymond Conservation Commission is making plans to undertake wetlands inventory and mapping with the goal of identifying which wetlands should receive extra protection through wider setbacks. As noted in the outreach group notes, a key question to consider is the percentage of wetlands that occurs in the Lamprey River corridor. Carolyn Matthews reported that the RCC chair asked her to convey that this question cannot be answered until the wetland study is underway. She also reported that this type of wetland study (not a Prime Wetland study) might serve as a template for other towns in the watershed. A vote will be taken on May 22 to determine if the commission wants to pursue a Community Grant from LRAC to help defray costs. It was suggested that the Community Grants criteria might be overly stringent and warrant a review of criteria and process.
 - In March, voters passed an ordinance to protect streams (including intermittent streams) with a 75 foot setback. It was unclear at the meeting how the town will implement protection of intermittent streams, (defined as a stream that has water in it at least six months of the year), but the affected streams are on the radar of landowners and the conservation commission.
- Barrington: The natural resources inventory co-occurrence mapping project is nearing completion. New maps have been printed. The Community Grant final report should be available soon.

legislative update:

NHDES reported that the senate has approved the recommended change from having LAC members appointed by the NHDES commissioner to having them appointed by the RMAC. The bill will head back to the house for approval. Post-meeting update from NHDES on May 23, "the House concurred with the Senate amendment of HB 228 changing the appointing body for LAC members from the NHDES commissioner to the RMAC. This change will eliminate the need for LAC members to submit the financial disclosure form under RSA 15-A."

bylaws amendment:

Based on amendments provided in writing and discussed at the April 16 meeting, **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the bylaws amendments as presented. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

land protection:

- At the outreach workgroup meeting, Dick Lord provided several beautiful photographs of the river. The group selected its favorite to give as a gift to Laurel Cox for her many years of land protection work. Dick mounted and framed the photo and an engraved plaque will be affixed. Laurel was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so the photo will be given to her at home soon.
- The draft updated land protection map was shared and comments were solicited. It will go next to Laurel Cox for her input.

other:

- It was noted that updates to the recreation maps have been added to the website and stickers have been placed on printed maps referencing the website updates. To help disseminate the maps, it was suggested that copies be provided to the conservation commissions, SELT, and local campsites.
- Wild and Scenic designation of the York River will be taken up by the US Congress on May 22. Several new rivers have been added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System recently. The US Postal Service released its Wild and Scenic Rivers stamps today.
- A question was posed regarding how best to identify agricultural landowners so that we can better understand their concerns and how we might help them. Suggestions included municipal agricultural commissions, conservation districts, USDA agencies, regional planning commissions, NH water withdrawal licensing, and Steve Taylor.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Kitty Miller seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

ATTACHMENTS

Outreach, Rec, History, & Wildlife Meeting Notes May 8, 2019

present: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord, Jerry Martin, Kitty Miller, Suzanne Petersen, Debbie McNelly

Q & A with Debbie McNelly, Raymond CC, regarding possible community grant

The RCC is looking to recommend to the planning board and the town updated wetlands set-back regulations amid lots of development after the wetland study is delivered to RCC. First they need to map the wetlands in town and determine their values. The Rockingham Planning Commission has been contracted to lead the mapping and apply for grants. We need to know what percentage of wetlands lie in the river corridors.

Saturday, May 11, 10-noon, Herring Aid at Macallen Dam

Tilton Conservation Area signage update

- Panels for the roadside canoe access and kiosk are ready. They will be delivered to Epping soon.
- Flood plain trail work has not yet begun.

Thompson Forest:

- It was agreed that we need on-site photos; panel completion date will be fall 2019.
- I could find no documentation of an agreement to pay for the kiosk panel; neither could Ellen. She has filled out a community grant application; we need to add the budget items:
 - Joanne T. wants \$1200 for graphic design of the panel.
 - Cathy A. wants \$750 for graphic design of the panel.
 - Infinite Imaging can print the 40" x40" panel for \$225.55

outreach publicity estimates from Infinite Imaging, including basic graphic design:

- 1' x 8' banner for outside tent: \$136.00
- 24" x 36" double sides A frame with LRAC info \$342.46. Suzanne will look at other, less expensive options.

Rivers For Change update:

- May 13: Peter and Matt will paddle the full distance of the main stem Lamprey River.
- July 8-12: 12 middle school kids will experience 5 days of paddling and experiential learning. Cost per kid is \$400 with \$275 scholarships available.
- July 13, 8:00-11:00 On-the-water river clean up in Newmarket. Boats to borrow will be available.
- July 13, 2:00-5:00 Public paddle starting at Schoppmeyer Park to Packers Falls and back to Schoppmeyer. Suggested donation of \$5-\$10 for participants to help fund Source to Sea school programs. LRAC outreach folks can borrow a kayak from Peter for free.

rec map update:

- SRPC has sent a draft land protection map update to Joe.
- Cathy has not been able to upload or layer anything with the existing land protection map. The new land protection map might not be any different.
- Ric Raymond might be able to help. He will contact Cathy to try to understand the compatibility issue(s).
- Stickers have been affixed to existing maps directing readers to visit www.lampreyriver.org for updates. Descriptions of new sites have been uploaded.
- Extra stickers are available for surplus maps that you might have in your car or house.

vernal pool trek:

7 people attended. Egg masses for wood frogs, spotted & blue spotted salamanders found. No fairy shrimp this time. Several last-minute cancellations; otherwise, we would have had about 12 attend. Newmarket was a big disappointment- initial enthusiasm from a walking group floundered.

wildlife camera:

Deploying the camera back to the canoe passage enhancement project area was discussed, but the decision was made to deploy it to Dick's backyard.

potential trash in river:

Kitty reported that she has seen several large, white blobs in the river in Lee. She will try to get a closer look or retrieve a sample.

Thompson Forest trail issue:

Jerry reported that he walked the trails. The little spur to the river is not well marked and visitors are not using it as a outlook; they are using it to create a new trail along the river. Suzanne will alert Ellen and offer our help to brush it in or add signage if needed.

Project Review Meeting Notes May 2, 2019

Durham 263 Newmarket Road, wetlands:

The applicant requests an “after-the-fact” wetland permit to continue to use an existing driveway to access two proposed dwellings. An alternative access was proposed and approved, but this will not be constructed as it is more impactful. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has requested that a 36” culvert be installed beneath the existing driveway.

The Natural Heritage Report indicates that several species of concern are found in or near this proposed project area: American eel, Blanding’s turtle, northern black racer, and spotted turtle. The NHB questions whether this site might be potential habitat for great bur-reed.

The committee is well aware that turtles of many species are abundant in this area and that they require both wetlands and dry upland areas. We have no information at present regarding potential build-out of the lots accessed by this road. We recommend that great care be taken to cause as little disturbance as possible to aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the wild residents that rely on them.

Epping, Epping Crossing Solar Array, AoT:

The proponent desires to construct a 3 MW solar field consisting of 10,500 panels. The already-altered site is to be cleared, graded, loamed, and seeded and solar panels installed. The site will remain a field and will be mowed only enough to keep vegetation lower than the panels.

The Natural Heritage Bureau report indicates that the NH State Endangered Georgia bulrush is present near the site. Communications between the applicant and NHDES indicate that these plants will not be impacted by the proposed project.

The plan stipulates an annual inspection to check for and remove invasive plants. Given the variety of species and best times for management, we recommend more frequent inspections for at least the first few years until the desired vegetation becomes well established. We also recommend that the person or persons responsible for the management of vegetation have qualifications beyond simple landscaping skills and that any permits issued include a commitment from this trained person or entity.

The project proposes grass as the primary vegetation. With all the open space and light maintenance proposed, this site could offer a wonderful space for wildflowers or at least a conservation mix to encourage local pollinators.

Newmarket, MacIntosh and Tucker public water wells, environmental review:

The town proposes to separate the blending of two water sources to improve capacity. Each source will now be treated individually. No permits are being applied for at this time. No direct impacts to the Piscassic River are anticipated. Joe will send a quick email to NHDES.

Nottingham, Stage Road, shoreland:

The applicant proposes to build a single-family, four-bedroom house with on-site well and septic system. The applicant anticipates 15,431 square feet of impacts to the protected shoreland. Impervious area is expected to cover 3,086 square feet. All proposed work is outside the 150 foot woodland buffer. The house, garage, and driveway are predominantly within the 250 protective buffer. The Natural Heritage Report indicates that no species of concern are found in or near this proposed project area.

We note that proposed work is as far as possible away from the 150 foot woodland buffer. While we do not like to see additional development in the protected shoreland, we have no specific concerns about the effects this project will have on the North River.