

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 16, 2019
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

APPROVED AUGUST 20, 2019

members present: John Wallace (Barrington), Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Mary Ann Krebs (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Jason Settineri (Lee), Cris Blackstone, Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Therese Thompson (Nottingham), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Summary of Motions Passed:

Al Hall made a motion to show appreciation to the Town of Lee for use of the Safety Complex for meetings by making a donation to the Lee Conservation Commission's land protection fund in the amount of \$500. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to approve the Raymond Community Grant for a wetlands inventory for up to \$6000, with the caveat that if the inventory is not otherwise funded by August 1, 2020, the \$6000 will need to be returned to LRAC. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion that the community grant application from SELT not be funded. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to use River (not Rivers) in reference to LRAC going forward. Cris Blackstone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to approve up to an additional \$300 so that SRPC can make needed further revisions to the 2019 land protection map. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Hall made a motion to approve a total of \$500 for LRAC attendees at the Partnership W&S Rivers conference in New Jersey in September. Kitty Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Matthews made a motion to indicate LRAC's endorsement to re-appoint Ruth Ward to the RMAC. Al Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of Minutes from June 18, 2019:

Al Hall made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention.

financial report:

The monthly bank statement, year-to-date budget, and land protection reports were reviewed. No issues were noted.

outreach-recreation-history-wildlife workgroup update:

See attached meeting notes at end.

Future meetings will be held at the Lee Safety Complex at 9:30 A.M. on the first Wednesday of the month. **Al Hall made a motion to show appreciation to the Town of Lee for use of the Safety Complex for meetings by making a donation to the Lee Conservation Commission's land protection fund in the amount of \$500. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** The outreach specialist was tasked with contacting the town to determine a path forward.

project review update:

Deerfield, 24 Mountain View Road, after-the-fact shoreland permit:

Proponent built a daycare center on mostly previously altered land with town approval. Construction resulted in about 700 square feet of disturbance in the 250 foot protected buffer around Freese's Pond. The leach field that is proposed will add another 100 square feet of disturbance. The site is across the street from dense development directly on Freese's Pond.

Joe will send email to NHDES noting no concerns.

Newmarket, Tucker-Macintosh Well pilot test, wetlands permit: (*Engineer response in italics*)

1. The proponent desires to perform pilot testing at an existing well to measure the performance and removal efficiencies of proposed treatment processes. A temporary timber mat bridge over the Piscassic River is proposed to transport pilot testing equipment to Tucker Well from the northwest. Work will result in temporary impacts to 4,820 square feet of prime wetlands.
2. Work has been proposed to take place in August 2019 during normal low-flows. The rivers of the Lamprey River watershed are subject to flashiness and flows can change significantly in a short period of time. What provisions, if any, have been considered if normal low flows are not present? *The timber mat bridge designed for low flows will allow water to pass under the bridge. If high flows occur, the bridge can be removed until flows subside.*
3. Given that this is an existing well and the need for additional water supply in Newmarket is great, it is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed

pilot test will be the beginning of potentially larger and longer impacts to the site. In addition to documented flashiness of this river, the need to put this pilot test into a larger context seems appropriate. How will service vehicles access this site during higher flows and generally wetter conditions throughout the year? We encourage planning for a longer expanse that allows unfettered water passage and less cumulative damage to river banks. *This access is temporary. A permanent access is anticipated through another corridor over land to the east. This access is being negotiated.*

4. The Natural Heritage Bureau report indicates that several species or natural communities of concern have been documented on site: low-gradient silty-sandy riverbank system, climbing hempvine, great bur-reed, Blanding's turtle, and northern long-eared bat. Most documentation is from 2002 or earlier with no more recent documentation. The exception is Blanding's turtles which have been observed as recently as 2015. All due care should be taken to ensure that Blanding's turtles are not present on site during work, including nest sites. *Noted and agreed.*
5. The extended project description indicates that "A discharge line for the pilot testing will be placed in the Piscassic River and has been granted a Temporary Surface Water Discharge by NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau." It is our understanding that such discharges are not allowed into Class A waters, such as the Piscassic River. *The wetlands application erroneously stated that temporary surface water discharge had been granted for this project. In fact, a temporary discharge permit to discharge on the ground onsite has been granted by NHDES.*
6. With increased usage of this area, and more specifically the road, we recommend that the road be posted as a non-public way to help deter casual visitation to this sensitive site. *Noted and agreed.*

Epping, solar array, wetlands:

1. The proponent desires to construct a 3 MW solar field consisting of 10,500 panels. The 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. Total wetlands impacts will be 37,108 square feet.
2. 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.
3. Proposed wetlands impacts are to be concentrated on the wetland in the center of the project area, leaving the peripheral wetland/upland mosaic largely unaltered. As noted in Meeting Minutes from the Epping Conservation Commission dated April 9, 2019, the loss of this central wetland is preferable to more dispersed impacts to the peripheral

wetlands. The proponent will mitigate the loss of the central wetland with an easement swap for another area of the property of about 8 acres and a payment to the New Hampshire wetlands mitigation fund. While we do not want to see the loss of any wetland, we agree that the proposed alternative is preferred.

At the meeting, the committee agreed that a better understanding of solar array risks needs to be explored.

other:

The group discussed having project reviews in the first 30-60 minutes of the full LRAC meeting. More views could be considered and more local expertise could be utilized. Complicated projects could be reviewed at a separate meeting. **The full committee agreed that this was reasonable.**

LRWA update:

- Two new members have joined the board of directors.
- The board is exploring the role(s) that college interns might assume.
- The annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 at the Lee Grange Hall. The featured speaker will be Sherry Godlewski.
- This year's water quality monitoring team consists of 4 active testers who sample 40 sites along the river. The Raymond Recreation Department is testing sites in Raymond.

Barrington natural resource co-occurrence mapping project:

SRPC is done with the bulk of the mapping work. The Barrington Conservation Commission is in the process of tweaking results. A one-page sheet outlining the process and potential usefulness to other towns has been requested. A presentation of the results of the project will be shared with the LRAC probably in September.

legislative update re: appointment process:

The legislature passed and the governor signed HB225 that includes a provision that moves the appointment of LAC representatives away from the NHDES commissioner and to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee. Representatives will no longer be required to complete the financial disclosure form. Current representatives should expect to receive a new letter signed by the RMAC indicating their appointment status.

vote on Raymond Community Grant:

As noted in the full committee Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2019, the town is proposing to do a wetlands inventory with the goal of better protecting wetlands in town, especially those found to be of high value to wildlife or water supply. Findings from the inventory will be used to upgrade existing land use regulations. The time line begins July 11, 2019

and ends June 30, 2020 after next spring's vernal pool observations and creation of final reports. The \$6000 requested from LRAC will attract other funding for the full cost of \$30,378. *The outreach-rec-history-wildlife group unanimously recommended that this application be approved for up to \$6000, with the caveat that if the inventory is not otherwise funded by August 1, 2020, the \$6000 will need to be returned to LRAC.* **Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to approve the Raymond Community Grant for a wetlands inventory for up to \$6000, with the caveat that if the inventory is not otherwise funded by August 1, 2020, the \$6000 will need to be returned to LRAC. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

vote on SELT Community Grant application:

SELT has reached out to several LRAC members to do presentations in partnership with SELT as part of SELT's "Lamprey River Series." After LRAC participation was confirmed, a different person from SELT submitted a grant application for \$2471, mostly to cover SELT staff time and travel expenses for the joint presentations and several routine SELT offerings. *After considerable discussion, the group's members voted unanimously that the grant not be awarded based on the following factors:*

- *The application and proposed project offer no deliverables.*
- *The application offers no metrics by which to measure success of the program.*
- *Attention to the management plan is lacking, with no reference beyond basic outreach.*
- *The application did not recognize LRAC's volunteer and staff time for projects that SELT promotes as its own.*
- *The process of securing LRAC assistance and then applying for a LRAC grant is backwards.*

Al Hall made a motion that the community grant application from SELT not be funded. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rivers vs. River in LRAC:

Although Rivers seemed useful when the LRAC expanded from the Wild and Scenic segment to the full river plus the five tributaries, Rivers is now causing undue confusion and inconsistency. **Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to use River (not Rivers) in reference to LRAC going forward. Cris Blackstone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

revised land protection map:

The revised version of the 2016 land protection map needs significant additional work. SRPC was approved for up to \$300 and is requesting an additional \$300 to complete the work. **Al Hall made a motion to approve up to an additional \$300 so that SRPC can make needed further**

revisions to the 2019 land protection map. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

office issues:

The office in Durham is becoming increasingly unsatisfactory due to poor parking, poor access, poor public visibility, and general ambiance. The Loft in Newmarket offers a number of amenities that represent a big improvement and costs the same as the Durham office space. Lexian Management might also offer some suitable office space. The following volunteered to lead further investigations: Cris Blackstone (chair), Mary Ann Krebs, Jerry Martin, Carolyn Matthews, Suzanne Petersen

Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Conference in Somers Point, NJ, Sept. 15-17:

These conferences are important events, but no committee members are eager to attend. Jim MacCartney has indicated that he will rent a van for LRAC and other New England river groups for carpooling to the event. It was agreed that compensation might sweeten the deal. **AI Hall made a motion to approve a total of \$500 for LRAC attendees at the Partnership W&S Rivers conference in New Jersey in September. Kitty Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

re-appointment of Ruth Ward to the RMAC:

At the June meeting, a request for endorsement for re-appointment of an RMAC member did not include the appointee's name. Carolyn Matthews vouched that Ms. Ward is a strong voice for New Hampshire's rivers and deserves the courtesy of LRAC's endorsement. **Carolyn Matthews made a motion to indicate LRAC's endorsement to re-appoint Ruth Ward to the RMAC. AI Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

other:

- A message to Joe Foley regarding recreation maps for the upper river revealed an unmet need that was started several years ago but abandoned. A renewed effort to produce a recreation map for the upper watershed will be undertaken by the recreation workgroup.
- Joe Foley received an offer for antique fishing gear. The history workgroup is formulating a plan to evaluate the equipment and potentially find a permanent home for it as well as make use of it for outreach.
- AI Hall reported that he is taking active steps to find a representative to LRAC from Deerfield.
- Carolyn Matthews reported that Raymond has scheduled a number of events at the Riverside Park. The details were not available, but she will investigate.

adjournment:

Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to adjourn. AI Hal seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Attachments:

**Outreach, Rec, History & Wildlife Workgroup Meeting Notes
July 10, 2019**

attending: Cris Blackstone, Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord, Carolyn Matthews, Suzanne Petersen, Therese Thompson

updates:

- Route 87: For 2018 Small Grant for signage and floodplain trail work, one flood plain trail bridge has been built; two more to go. Epping Cons. Comm. is investigating design options and sources of funding for the canoe launch. A grant application to us for this year has not been determined.
- Rec map revision: SELT returned the land protection maps on Monday and they are now back to SRPC so the new one can more closely resemble the functional, old one, plus the new parcels. Whether we can add the protected lands layer to the rec map remains to be seen.
- White blobs on the river in Lee earlier in spring: The concerned party revisited the material and found it to be lichens.

Nottingham Trails: An email from the Trails Committee asked if LRAC was OK with some planned trails. The committee was reminded to check with NHDES regarding the need for possible wetlands or shoreland permits; the applications are now in process. The town will be seeking grants to help fund the trails and they were encouraged to apply for a LRAC community grant.

historic fishing gear: Joe received an email noting that some old eel spears, eel traps, and oyster tongs were available for public display. Dick will get some photos and Cris will confer with the Newmarket Historic Association about possible uses and placement of the items. These tools might serve as a good visual for a presentation about ecological change in partnership with Newmarket Historic Association and NH Fish and Game.

future workgroup meetings: Due to recent schedule conflicts, the group discussed options to change the date and location of meetings. The consensus was to continue to meet at 9:30 on the first Wednesday of the month, but find a more accessible location. Suzanne will check into reserving the Lee Safety Complex for now.

SELT Community Grant application: SELT has reached out to Dick, Cris, and Suzanne to do presentations in partnership with SELT as part of SELT's "Lamprey River Series." After LRAC participation was confirmed, a different person from SELT submitted a grant application for \$2471, mostly to cover SELT staff time and travel expenses for the joint presentations and several routine SELT offerings. After considerable discussion, **the group's members voted unanimously that the grant not be awarded** based on the following factors:

- The application and proposed project offer no deliverables.
- The application offers no metrics by which to measure success of the program.
- Attention to the management plan is lacking, with no reference beyond basic outreach.
- The application did not recognize LRAC's volunteer and staff time for projects that SELT promotes as its own.
- The process of securing LRAC assistance and then applying for a LRAC grant is backwards.
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Raymond Community Grant: As noted in the full committee Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2019, the town is proposing to do a wetlands inventory with the goal of better protecting wetlands in town, especially those found to be of high value to wildlife or water supply. Findings from the inventory will be used to upgrade existing land use regulations. The time line begins July 11, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020 after next spring's vernal pool observations and creation of final

reports. The \$6000 requested from LRAC will attract other funding for the full cost of \$30,378. **The group unanimously recommended that this application be approved for up to \$6000, with the caveat that if the inventory is not otherwise funded by August 1, 2020, the \$6000 will need to be returned to LRAC.**

possible public picnic and paddle: Suzanne is in the process of organizing an event on August 24 at Mary Blair Park. Partners would include Epping Rec., SELT, and Seven Rivers Paddling. Seven Rivers has provided a cost estimate for paid guides and rental boats. Suzanne suggested that LRAC pay the full boat rental price to encourage new people to try paddling and simplify access to the boats which will be taken out for short paddles during the event. Only boats that are actually used will be included. The group agreed by consensus to these terms.

other:

- The office in Durham is becoming increasingly unsatisfactory due to poor parking, poor access, poor public visibility, and general ambiance. A suggestion was made to explore renting office space at The Loft in Newmarket and renewing discussion with LRAC about a more suitable office.
- Recent discussions about the desirability of Lamprey RIVERS Advisory Committee versus Lamprey RIVER Advisory Committee suggest the name should be revisited by the full committee.
- Dick reported that he has purchased some amateur water quality testing equipment for possible use by the committee.

summer events:

- July 13, 8-11, public litter clean-up at Schoppmeyer Park with Rivers for Change
- July 13, 2-5, public paddle at Schoppmeyer Park with Rivers for Change
- July 18, 2-3, kids' presentation at Nottingham library
- July 27, Splash and Dash, 10-3 at Schanda Park with Newmarket Rec
- August 9, time?, nature photo workshop, Burley Farm Epping
- August 14, 6:30, eco-history of dams, Durham Public Library
- August 17, 1-4, eco-paddle, Schanda Park, Newmarket
- August 24, 11-2, public picnic and paddle, Mary Blair Park, Epping (tentative)