

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED NOVEMBER 16, 2021

representatives attending: Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller (Lee), Jerry Martin, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket), Grace Levergood (Northwood), Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Jim MacCartney (by phone), Suzanne Petersen

Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Approval of minutes from August 17, 2021:

Jerry Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Grace Levergood seconded. Motion passed with 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

Presentation by Lee Conservation Commission members re: invasive buckthorn plan near the canoe launch, Anne Tappan and Mimi Winder

- Glossy buckthorn is abundant at the canoe launch on Rte. 152. Many specimens are mature and producing lots of seeds. Methods learned at home and at NH Invasive Academy show that mature trees can be killed by cutting trunks and bagging the stumps with heavy black plastic for 2-3 years. Saplings can be pulled. No chemicals are being suggested for use.
- Vegetative assessment shows that native plants are also abundant and will thrive once the canopy opens.
- Tentative plans include creating a 10-year management plan; annual trimming, bagging, and pulling as needed; and community education and outreach measures including signage on-site and articles in the Lee Crier. Plans do not include planting new natives due to soil disturbance concerns, but implanting live stakes might be considered.
- Lee CC welcomes input and participation with LRAC.

financial report:

Bank activity and year-to-date budget were reviewed with no anomalies noted. We are on track to end the five-year cooperative agreement in good shape. Most invoices for the year were received and paid, but the website redesign will have a \$5000 carry-over to FY2022.

grants:

All four grants are moving along. Final invoices were received by September 1.

- Wiswall water quality: Equipment has been purchased. The grantee is working on effecting real-time data sharing with the public.
- Bacterial tracking: Four sample sets have been completed so far. With impairments noted, what can we expect to happen with NHDES and EPA?
- Little River Park trail: The wetlands permit application has been submitted. The kiosk panel is ready to print.
- Erosion research: No information yet.

Lee Public Canoe Access:

- Grace Levergood drew up plans for physical improvements and researched permits that might be needed. The permit will probably be a permit-by-notification, which is good news.
- Next steps are to get an estimate from the landscaper who originally installed the steps, seek town approval for the plan, and phase the process.
- The plans do not currently include adding grip bars for paddlers, but there was consensus that we should try something to improve paddler safety and ease. This bar will probably be attached to the new lower step that is proposed.

Other:

- Therese Thompson shared water quality and variable milfoil data from the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association. Some data were from 2020, some from this year. Despite best efforts to identify and remove plants, milfoil has been appearing in new places in the lake, a troubling trend.
- Concern was noted that some Newmarket Rec. kayaks need maintenance. The kayak dock assistance mechanism at Schoppmeyer Park needs to be adjusted to a higher level so that boats are not floating as paddlers try to enter and exit their boats. Patrick Reynolds and Jerry Martin will contact Newmarket Rec and Newmarket DPW to see about a maintenance plan and safety improvements at the dock.
- The recent amendment to the bylaws was discussed. The amendment was intended to provide a means for the committee to replace non-participating members and at the August meeting, the committee voted to terminate a member. Despite having been vetted by the NHRMPP coordinator as fine, the bylaws change was, in fact, not permissible. The NHRMPP coordinator subsequently contacted the rep in question and he submitted his resignation. In future circumstances, she recommended that the committee send a certified letter asking for a response. If none was given, it might be assumed that the rep was not interested in continuing to be on the committee. This was not verified by the NH Rivers Management Council that ultimately appoints new reps. As an alternative, it was suggested that the NHDES send a certified letter, rather than the LAC sending it. That way, the letter would carry the most weight as coming from the appointing authority.
- FYI, the Durham Town Council voted to remove the Oyster River Dam near Route 108. Many in town are not happy and are seeking a vote to save the dam through a warrant article.

Adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42.