

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2017
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

members present: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller (Lee), Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Emily Schmalzer , Cynthia Kelsey (excused), Elizabeth Dudley (excused), Al Hall (excused), Anne Lightbody (excused), Preston Samuel (excused), Deb McNelly (excused)

Meeting began at 7:07.

summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to invite the new director of the Lamprey River Watershed Association to become an associate member of the LRAC. Michelle Shattuck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from June 13, 2017:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Minutes were approved with 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

No report was provided.

workgroup updates:

land protection:

No meeting was held in July. Some new money might be available from a non-federal source.

outreach:

Two presentations were made recently through library programs in Epping and Deerfield.

recreation:

- Trout Unlimited wood clearing project: The contract still has not been signed as far as we know. No work has begun. Per the NH Charitable Foundation Grant, all work must be completed by March 2018. We might need to request an extension for the grant if possible.
- Splash and Dash, August 19, 10:30 to 3:00, Newmarket:
- saltwater paddle: An oyster restoration biologist and safety person are being lined up for a late-August or early September trip.
- LRWA's Raymond Fun Float will take place Saturday, August 12 starting at 9:30 at the town beach behind the Lamprey River Elementary School.

- Fly fishing: Mary Ann offered to lead a demonstration.

history:

- Schoppmeyer Park: Preliminary landscaping plans are being created.
- Phase 1B archaeological study at Thompson Woods, Durham: Ellen Snyder contacted Sharon and Dick to request LRAC's help in funding a phase 1B archaeology study in the amount of \$1538 at Thompson Woods. The town paid for the 1A study that indicated three areas sensitive for possible Native American artifacts. Ellen's preliminary ideas for a trail on the property were modified to avoid two of these areas, but not the third. This reduced the cost of the 1B study by confining it to a single area, but still requiring that it be done before a trail could be constructed. After discussion, it was agreed that LRAC could pay for the 1B study from the \$2400 allocated to history in the FY17 W&S budget. Those present at the history subcommittee voted to offer to expend up to \$1,600 from the \$2,400 budget line item, to fund a 1B archaeology study on the Thompson property. In return, we asked for LRAC to participate in the trail design process. We have also asked Ellen to clarify with NHDHR our need to be able to publish a redacted report of the 1B study if it was to be funded with NPS money. This being a line item budget expenditure of under \$5,000; therefore, it does not require a vote of the full LRAC membership.

project review:

- Raymond: proposed sale of state-owned property: The group reviewed the application and concluded that the sale would result in no harm to the river. Wetlands are present on the parcel and any potential proposed work that involved wetlands on the site would require a wetland permit and review by LRAC.
- Epping: WWTF after-the-fact dam permit: The state has determined that the sewer lagoon constitutes a dam and needs to be registered as such. Concerns were noted by the state that flood conditions could result in a release of lagoon water into the river. Joe is familiar with the site and has never noted a big difference in water heights between the river and lagoon; therefore, the possibility of "dam" failure due to head pressure does not exist. Further, while the group determined that a permit for an existing dam would not result in harm to the river, planned removal of trees on the lagoon wall seem to undermine structural integrity and might reduce beneficial shading of the impounded water. Follow-up with the town and state will be initiated.

water quality: The group has not met this summer, but is eager to start work with a student data analyst.

wildlife: No meeting has been held recently.

grants: Nothing new to report.

LRWA:

- A watershed-wide clean-up is scheduled for September 16. Contacts from the various towns are needed.

- The annual meeting will be held on Oct. 24.
- **Dick Lord made a motion to invite the new director of the Lamprey River Watershed Association to become an associate member of the LRAC. Michelle Shattuck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

town issues:

Raymond:

The Department of Public Works has announced plans to remove several beaver dams on Dudley Brook near the Raymond-Candia town line to protect Rte. 107 near Upper Scotland Drive. No flooding took place in that area during extensive flooding in Raymond in recent history. Some residents want to preserve the beaver pond on their property and are requesting help to stop the planned action. Several suggestions were made for resources to help as well as a recommendation to clarify what is driving this proposal

Newmarket:

- The profusion of aquatic vegetation that was present last year in the Piscassic-Lamprey confluence is not present this year.
- Michelle Shattuck announced that she will need to scale back her participation in LRAC, but she will seek renewal of her appointment and continue to participate in the water quality group.

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers workshop, July 10-13, 2017:

Emma, Jim, and Suzanne attended. Notes were provided to all in the agenda package. Jim outlined visual resource assessment and how the NPS is adapting the process to reflect the differences between landscape views versus river views.

20 Year Progress Report:

The graphic designer has supplied the overall vision for the report. Any LRAC representative who would like to review and make comments was invited to do so.

stream crossing report follow-up:

This detailed report is a lot to digest. It was agreed that sharing the report as-is with town officials would not be productive. Before LRAC takes the report to towns, some key issues need to be addressed:

- Towns need help, not more random projects to undertake and manage. When we propose culvert improvements, the request needs to be specific, doable, and offer something that the town probably could not get on its own.
- We need to match our needs and wants with the needs and wants of the town. We must find the intersection between wildlife passage improvements (which can come with funding) and town priorities for cost-saving infrastructure protection or improvements. The intersection will be especially pertinent for culvert replacements that are already identified and planned by the town.
- Aquatic passage improvement grants can be awarded on a town-by-town basis; a whole watershed does not need to get on board.

- When we approach towns, we need to offer a package that includes the following services and solutions:
 - o clear and articulate argument that impaired flow causes harm to both infrastructure and wildlife; improvements can result in a win-win situation
 - o estimate of the extent to which culvert failure could cause damage: how far would vehicles need to be rerouted, what human assets could be lost
 - o availability of funding that can supplement stream crossing improvement projects that the town undertakes as part of routine maintenance
 - o project modifications that are realistic and doable
 - o an offer to identify and manage aquatic passage grants that will complement work already planned and cover incremental costs
 - o perhaps a small financial incentive from LRAC's regular budget
- **Next action:** LRAC representatives need to find the town's maintenance or stream crossing plan and determine which three projects have the best potential for wildlife passage improvements. Report to the committee in September.

other:

- The York River W&S Study group is looking at historic resources. LRAC has been invited to offer guidance and retrospective. Next meeting will be August 24 from 12:30 to 2:30 at the York Public Library.
- NHDES is having the 4th of 5 Instream Flow Rulemaking information meetings on September 19, 9:00 -11:00 at the NH Department of Environmental Services, Room 208C, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. NHDES staff will review the water management plan administration and the waivers sections of the proposed new rules. Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome. These new rules will replace the Pilot Instream Flow Rules and will apply to all the Designated Rivers of the state. The new Instream Flow rules are being developed following the requirements of RSA 483 as revised by Chapter 286, Laws of 2016; and as informed by the Instream Flow Pilot Program results, which are documented in the December 2015 Report of the Instream Flow Pilot Program.
- A new land protection project might be underway. The landowner was impressed by the reputation that LRAC has attained through previous projects.
- The FY2018 cooperative agreement between NPS and LRAC is ready to be signed and will be in place before the end of August.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Meeker seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.