

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
combined Wild & Scenic and full committee session
December 13, 2016
Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road, 7:00**

APPROVED JANUARY 10, 2017

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews, Deb McNelly (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Al Hall (excused), Kitty Miller

guests: Ernie Creveling (Town of Raymond planner), Abby Lyon (PREP), Aimee Gigandet (Newmarket Recreation), Elizabeth Dudley (future Newmarket LRAC rep)

Meeting began at 7:10.

summary of motions passed:

Preston Samuel made a motion to have individual representatives contact their town selectmen and request that they disregard the unauthorized letter sent recently that requests municipal donations to LRAC. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed with 9 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstention.

grant presentations:

Raymond Elementary School nature trail:

Ernie Creveling and Abby Lyon spoke about the process of developing the trail as part of a larger eco-center. The W&S grant of \$5000 leveraged \$5000 from the Raymond Conservation Commission, \$1500 from Walmart, \$1500 of in-kind labor and materials provided by Bemis Construction, and many hours of donated time by Raymond citizens, teachers, students, and businesses to create and install signage. Photos of the kiosk and twelve nature trail signs were shared with the group. The nature trail will be used extensively by students at the school and will be open to the public on weekends and school vacations. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place Dec. 9. Signs have been loaded to www.lampreyriver.org under the "parks" tab.

Newmarket kayak racks and Splash & Dash Kayak Race:

Aimee Gigandet talked about the two separate grants, each for \$5000, as one interconnected process. The four new kayak racks enabled families

and Newmarket Recreation participants to utilize town-owned kayaks on site rather than having to find ways to transport individual boats from the Recreation Center to the water. The increased availability of the kayaks and financial support for logistics and reusable race materials helped to make the first annual kayak race a big success. Aimee showed a video placed on You Tube that was professionally produced using grant funds that will advertise future races and draw community sponsors.

approval of minutes:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the Wild and Scenic minutes from November 8, 2016 as presented. Sharon Meeker seconded. Minutes were approved 5 yes votes.

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the full committee minutes from October 27, 2016 as presented. Preston Samuel seconded. Minutes were passed with 8 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

financial report:

The account reconciliation, year-to-date, and land protection account reports were reviewed. All activity was accounted for.

Wild and Scenic update:

See approved meeting minutes from November as attachment at end.

outreach update:

See meeting notes from December as attachment at end.

land protection update:

Next meeting will take place on Dec. 16.

recreation:

- Trout Unlimited is preparing a concept proposal for improving canoe passage between Wadleigh Falls and the Route 87 bridge for discussion at the W&S meeting in January. The basic criterion for passage is for 6 foot width and 3 inch water depth during base flow of 100 cubic feet per second.
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is working on revisions to its guidebook. This might be a good resource for LRAC to emulate.
- Grant opportunities that might help to offset or cover costs for TU's work will be explored.

water committee:

Our goal this year is to extend the analysis of the compiled historical water data to include other available categories such as turbidity and oxygen saturation measurements. We will need and have the funds to hire a student to help us with that; so far no one has been forthcoming. The

previous analysis by Mark Kotowsky needs to be distilled and reworded to make it more accessible as a committee report; the volunteer members of the group will do that.

project review update:

- Newmarket, New Road/Young Lane wetlands: The town proposes to increase stormwater infiltration to reduce flooding issues. At the time of the review, details of a study that model improvements from the project were not available. These were made available recently and show that in a big rain event, the roads will still flood, but floodwaters will recede faster than today. This project is the first among many that the town proposes. An alteration of terrain permit for the same project is expected soon.
- Zampa Restaurant, Epping: The parking lot on the south side of the building was expanded several years ago. Stormwater detention and treatment exceeded what was required. The recent proposal to increase the building and parking lot area closest to the river on the north side did not include detention or treatment of stormwater. LRAC argued that this water should be treated prior to discharge to the river. NHDES responded that the law says that the proponent does not need to do this, because the stormwater treatment for the original parking lot expansion resulted in less runoff than pre-development. The only way that NHDES can force the proponent to treat the stormwater from the latest expansion is for LRAC or some other entity to document an increase in pollutants as a result of the expansion. Clearly, the law here is not working to keep the water clean. A letter has been sent to LRAC area state representatives to address this in the next legislative session.
- Candia auto auction expansion: The proponent has requested to expand the gravel parking area and is of the opinion that gravel over soil should be considered porous pavement. In reality, soil conditions on site will result in an infiltration coefficient just slightly better than regular pavement. Unlike true pervious pavement which can be vacuumed, gravel cannot be maintained as pervious. LRAC comments recommended that gravel not be considered pervious and that true stormwater management be required. Upon initial review, it was unclear if the site was inside or outside of the quarter mile corridor of LRAC jurisdiction. Upon NHDES review, the site is outside of the corridor.
- Mendum's Pond dam repairs: LRAC requests for minimal historical preservation and signage appear to be in danger of being ignored or dismissed. A site meeting will be held Wednesday. Two LRAC representatives will attend to restate LRAC's position.
- A question was raised concerning any criteria that the W&S program requires above and beyond what the state requires when reviewing projects. Because the State of New Hampshire has environmental review authority delegated by EPA, and the W&S program has a real focus on the river channel and Outstandingly Remarkable Values, state review standards are sufficient for the W&S program.

other:

- The **10th Annual Lamprey River Symposium** will be held January 9 at UNH. Everyone is encouraged to attend. LRAC will probably have a short presentation about the power of volunteerism focusing on water quality and the W&S 20 year progress report.
- Chairman Dick Snow recently sent **letters to the selectmen of all fourteen towns to solicit \$100 donations for LRAC**. He reminded the committee that LACS have the authority to raise and spend money per RSA 483, but he was unsure of the exact legal definition of the committee's status and individual representative liability.
 - Several committee members noted concern and consternation about this letter.
 - This action was taken unilaterally and without any consultation with the committee.
 - Selectmen in towns are not always the people to grant money for environmental causes.
 - Some towns already are essentially donating to LRAC in the form of free meeting space and other services.
 - A request for donations to LRAC should not go directly to selectmen or town voters.
 - \$100 is a reasonable amount to ask, but not without consulting the committee.
 - LRAC has no infrastructure in place to accept municipal donations at this time.
 - If and when municipal donations are requested, the full committee should make this decision.
 - The letter has put representatives and towns in an awkward position.
 - **Preston Samuel made a motion to have individual representatives contact their town selectmen and request that they disregard the unauthorized letter sent recently that requests municipal donations to LRAC. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Motion passed with 9 yes votes and 1 no vote and 1 abstention.**

adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

attachments:

**Wild and Scenic Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2016**

Lee Safety Complex, 22 George Bennett Road, 7:30

APPROVED DECEMBER 13, 2016

representatives present: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Dick Lord, Preston Samuel

staff and affiliates present: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:30.

Summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to state officially that the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee is not opposed to continuing discussions and work on possible selective clearing of woody obstacles in the stretch between Wadleigh Falls and the Route 87 bridge. These discussions and work will include ecological considerations, potential partnerships, and assessing feasibility. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote.

approval of minutes from Oct. 11, 2016:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved with 4 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

The account reconciliation, year-to-date budget, and land protection reports were reviewed and found to be in order.

outreach update:

- Several library presentations are planned for November.
- LRAC Wild & Scenic 20 year progress report draft is done. Final lay-out will be discussed with other partnership rivers for comparable metrics and degree of similar formatting prior to publishing.
- LRAC-related articles are reaching more readers through town and SELT newsletters.

education update:

Raymond and Epping seem to be likely future participants in the *Curriculum* field trip, thanks to Deb McNelly and Sharon Meeker's efforts.

history update:

The full 80 page report on Sullivan Mills has been redacted to 12 pages and has been posted to the website. The report includes a note that the full report can be provided to authorized archaeologists. But what does that mean? Jim MacCartney is doing initial NPS research and then we will seek guidance/corroboratorion from NHDHR and the researcher.

- Who is the "gatekeeper": the researcher, NHDHR, LRAC, NPS?
- What are the guidelines, precedents, or professional standards?
- How do we handle a Freedom of Information request?

water issues update:

Kitty Miller is part of a water quality committee in Concord and they are working to improve/enhance dissolved oxygen research. Kitty will provide additional information about the group to Anne Lightbody so she can try to recruit someone to join from the LRAC water quality workgroup.

wildlife update:

Suspected invasive milfoil in Newmarket turned out to be a bloom of native species. This area should be monitored annually to document any changes in the aquatic plant community.

discussion on woody obstacles to paddling:

As requested, all previous LRAC notes and discussions were compiled and shared. Notes from the joint LRWA-LRAC meetings were not available. Each member also received a summary of recommended actions from the woody obstacles Small Grant report from 2015.

Key points:

- LRAC is in the driver's seat for what it wants to do or not do. No specific duties have been determined and no group has been assigned any duties.
- Is improving/opening this stretch consistent with water trails? Probably yes. Many water trails are found in urban areas to enhance a river's scenic and recreational values.
- The woody obstacles report notes that blockages could be addressed by a Student Conservation Association crew for \$10,000 over the course of a ten day block.
 - The price seems high and we probably do not need ten days' worth of work. These students probably do not have significant training or experience with work in a river channel.
 - A sample private tree removal service could probably remove a tree for about \$1000.
 - Trout Unlimited might be able to create a passable route using trained tree removal staff members who have experience working in a river channel.
- Recreation is important, but so is wildlife. Animals need a river highway, but people do not, especially when the river in question is narrow .
- We do not know how animals are using this area. This area could be more important for research and education than for recreation.
- One of the report recommendations is to install signage about conditions in the area. Whether LRAC decides to engage in management of the area or not, nature will probably persist in making this area challenging for paddlers. Signage is an easy and helpful tool to inform the public both about natural conditions and process as well as safety issues.
- Before we attempt a big project with removing large wood, let's try hand-trimming what we can and see if that results in any improvements. Several members volunteered to help with this effort.
- LRAC does not have a comprehensive recreation plan for the river; therefore, we do not know how changes to this section might affect the overall picture.
- Fluvial dynamics are complex and complicated. This river is narrow and better suited for wildlife than for active recreation. Let's not mess with this area; leave it wild.
- Any management of this area must include a balance between the desires of improved recreational access and the needs of wildlife and fluvial dynamics.

- Concern over possible winter cutting activities was noted. All parties who paddled the area agreed that signs of cutting were evident and that given the depth of the water, winter cutting seemed likely.
- A suggestion was made to deploy cameras to monitor how the area is being used, mostly in terms of human usage.
- A suggestion was made to do long-term monitoring to assess new blockages and additions to existing blockages.

Dick Lord made a motion to state officially that the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee is not opposed to continuing discussions and work on possible selective clearing of woody obstacles in the stretch between Wadleigh Falls and the Route 87 bridge. These discussions and work will include ecological considerations, potential partnerships, and assessing feasibility. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Preston Samuel and Jim MacCartney will contact Trout Unlimited to begin discussions.

recreation update: Thompson Farm

LRAC W&S helped fund the conservation easement and had requested a bioinventory and management plan before the public began to utilize the site. This did not happen. Dick Lord shared photographs and aerial maps of the site. A site visit revealed the following:

- A new 6-car parking lot has been created.
- The existing horse trail is connected to the parking lot by a short trail through the woods. (It looks as though the horses and riders probably access the trail from the far end via an abutter's property). The horse trail has been recently pruned and wood chips added to mark the woods trail and in some locations to stabilize soil, but at this point no new trails have been developed toward the river.
- "No trespassing" signs have been posted around the water supply area.
- The Durham Conservation Commission will be contacted to see if LRAC can have a seat at the table regarding recreational development of the site going forward.

recreation update: Lee Trails Committee:

- GPS process is almost complete.
- Strafford Regional Planning Commission will create a map.
- Potential connections to the proposed Lamprey River foot path will be explored.

miscellaneous:

- Highlights from a seminar on joining conservation easements and alternative energy projects were handed out to all members. Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed as had been planned. Members were asked to review the material for a discussion in December.
- The next W&S meeting will include presentations from Newmarket and Raymond about their grant projects. The meeting might also be a joint W&S/full committee meeting due to schedule conflicts for the full committee with the holidays.
- A reminder was issued that Wadleigh Falls is an insurmountable obstacle to river herring migration and needs to be addressed.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:04.

Outreach and Recreation Workgroup Meeting Notes
December, 7, 2016 office, 1:00

attending: Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen

presentations:

Suzanne has offered several presentations at local libraries this fall. Several were well attended, others had no participants. Publicity by the libraries was adequate. No additional presentations are planned until winter weather won't interfere.

newsletter:

Potential topics could include the following:

- nature's ice sculptures near the river
- ribbon-cutting at Raymond Elementary School nature trail
- woodpeckers
- snow day projects toward a Junior Ranger patch

Lamprey River Symposium in January:

- Suzanne will check with Emily to share a presentation spot about volunteerism. Emily could speak about the water quality synopsis and Suzanne could talk about the W&W 20 years of progress report.
- Suzanne will contact Michelle to see if Durham's engineer will speak about Spruce Hole. Will anyone be speaking about the effects of last summer's drought?

Newmarket's proposal for Schoppmeyer Park:

Dick Lord contacted Town Planner Diane Hardy to suggest a contribution from W&S in the form of a kiosk. The only response to date is that donations can be made to the conservation commission.

Lee trails group:

Little River Park is being looked after by the recreation department and committee. The Lee Town Forest is being tended by the conservation commission. All other trails do not have any formal caretakers.

Thompson Forest (Durham):

No specific update was offered, but Dick reported that a group of Durham residents had petitioned to have the upcoming town budget include funding for a part-time conservation land manager with the position being offered to Ellen Snyder, who is very familiar with town conservation properties including the Thompson Forrest.

woody obstacles to paddling:

Discussion will be deferred until more is known following the W&S meeting.