

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes October 17, 2019**

Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road, Lee, NH 7:00 P.M.

APPROVED NOVEMBER 19, 2019

members present: John Wallace (Barrington), Mary Ann Krebs, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ric Raymond (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Jason Settineri (Lee), Therese Thompson (Nottingham)

staff present: Jim MacCartney , Suzanne Petersen

guests: Albert Butt, Dennis Garnham, Elanor Pickens

absent: Emily Schmalzer , Al Hall , Cris Blackstone, Ann Scholz , Michelle Shattuck, Carolyn Matthews

summary of motions passed:

- **Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to authorize storage unit rental. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to reimburse Ric Raymond an additional \$250 for attending the Wild and Scenic River conference in New Jersey in September. Jason Settineri seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Barrington Natural Resources Assessment and Co-occurrence Mapping presentation with Kyle Pimental, SRPC, and John Wallace

- This project was designed to update and expand the ability of Barrington to identify and prioritize areas in town where conservation efforts should be focused, either through permanent land protection or land use decisions.
- Eight natural resource variables were identified and weighted by the BCC:
 - soils
 - water resource conservation focus areas
 - wetlands and riparian habitat
 - wildlife focus areas per the NH Wildlife Action Plan (2015)
 - connectivity to other priority land
 - conservation focus areas identified in the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds (2006)
 - other surface and groundwater resources
 - climate change resilient and connected
- The SRPC created maps for each of the eight variables above and overlapped all to create a co-occurrence map. Existing conservation land was added as a final layer. Seven conservation hotspots were identified

that will serve as priorities for the BCC in the next ten years. All maps are available on the Town of Barrington website.

- The SRPC also created regional unweighted and Barrington-weighted co-occurrence maps that other towns in Strafford County can utilize as-is to inform conservation decisions. The process and data layering can easily be modified by the SRPC to suit individual town priorities. If towns have in-house GIS professionals, they can use ARC Map or ARC Pro to tweak the criteria weighting to customize maps to suit their needs. Towns in Rockingham County can also take advantage of this work with minimal additional cost.
- Based on the process and end results, the Barrington Conservation Commission recommends other towns to use the unweighted map as a good starting point, but the real value will come with fine-tuning.

approval of Minutes from August 20, 2019:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Therese Thompson seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

approval of Minutes from September 17, 2019:

Two amendments were suggested: Change invasive weed colts neck to coltsfoot under town updates for Nottingham and strike the second sentence in bullet four under outreach, recreation, history, wildlife group update.

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Anne Lightbody seconded. Minutes were approved with 6 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

financial report:

Bank register, budget-year-to-date, and land protection account reports were reviewed. No problems were noted. As the committee enters year 5 of the cooperative agreement, representatives were encouraged to pursue and complete projects to reduce the unspent balance from the previous four years.

land protection update:

- The 18 acre project in Epping has closed. \$35,000 was requested and approved, but only \$23,000 was actually needed.
- Three other projects are still in the process of closing and one is still active.

grants update:

- Tilton/Route 87 signage and flood plain trail improvements: Final report has been turned in, all expenses have been paid, new signs have been installed, new bridges have been installed and secured with cables.

- The Lee Conservation Commission is considering applying for a grant for the Little River Park Trail to add signage and structural improvements.
- The Lee Heritage Commission will hear about the Community Grants Program and see what projects might be suitable.
- Information about the grant program was provided to PREP and other Great Bay researchers. They will work on finding mutually beneficial projects.
- The almost-final version of the Thompson Farm kiosk panel was passed around for final comments and tweaks.

outreach plan for 2020:

- Mary Ann will take charge of the LRAC Twitter account.
- In cooperation with recreation and history, Doe Farm will be a focus area this year.
- Wildlife presentations will be a focus this year: beavers, turtles, fish, and birds. Indoor venues are primary, but outdoor programs are also possible.

history plan for 2020:

Doe Farm in Durham has seen several improvements recently and more are planned. An existing kiosk has room for a panel that explains the history of the property. LRAC will work with Durham to create this. The group will plan a guided tour similar to one offered in 2010.

recreation plan for 2020:

- Most efforts will center on creating the upper watershed rec map.
- Doe Farm trails will probably be upgraded to accommodate mountain bikes. This would be a good opportunity to engage cyclists on their turf.
- The existing rec map has a bike path delineated. We will renew efforts to partner with a rec department to offer a guided ride.

wildlife plan for 2020:

A formal plan has never been utilized. Kitty will use the template of the other workgroups to create one to guide the group's efforts.

project review:

- An alteration of terrain permit application in Raymond was reviewed just prior to this meeting; no concerns were noted.
- Three permits need to be reviewed on November 7: Two alteration of terrain permit applications in Nottingham and a revised wetlands permit application in Newfields.

LRWA update:

The annual meeting and dinner will take place on October 16 at the Jeremiah Smith Grange in Lee at 6:00.

town updates:

Lee: Damage caused by an ATV was noted at the Little River Park conservation land near the river. The code enforcement officer and police are aware.

new office and storage space update:

- The agreement with The Loft has not been signed yet due to a few unanswered questions, including how much rent is required up-front. The consensus of the group was to have the chair sign and authorize payment for whatever the starting fee is.
- Jason Settineri was tasked with finding a storage facility in Newmarket for the bulky items with a move-in date of November 1. **Mary Ann Krebs made a motion to authorize storage unit rental. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

signs for roadways:

- Joe Foley noted that a replacement W&S Rivers sign is needed in Epping. The committee currently has one left, so new ones are needed. Specifications and costs will be gathered and shared with the committee in November.
- It was noted that the NHDES has signs available to publicize state-protected rivers and these could be placed along the main river and designated tributaries to build awareness. The signs would also be a good way to engage towns in the upper watershed. Images and costs will be shared with the full committee in November.

Wild and Scenic Rivers conference summary:

- Ric Raymond attended the conference at Great Egg Harbor in New Jersey in September. As a new representative, he was eager to attend and learn about other W&S rivers and the activities of their groups.
- The SuAsCo rivers shared a very helpful “river report card” using publically available data that was created in cooperation with U. Mass. The focus of the report is a round chart that has been printed as a coaster for microbrew establishments and events. It was noted that UNH has a microbrew training center. It was suggested that we invite the SuAsCo group to do a presentation for LRAC.
- Representatives from the newly designated Wood-Pawcatuck River in Rhode Island noted concerns about liability issues surrounding river management. This served as a reminder that LRAC representatives might need initial or refresher information about liability.
- Ric asked if meeting agendas for other W&S river groups were available in a central location or if some accommodation could be created. Jim MacCartney indicated that probably 1/3 of the W&S rivers have active Twitter accounts and this might be a good place to start to stay current with other river groups.

- Ric spent about \$750 on this workshop. \$500 had been previously approved. **Dick Lord made a motion to reimburse Ric Raymond an additional \$250 for attending the Wild and Scenic River conference in New Jersey in September. Jason Settineri seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

FY2020 budget goals:

- Outreach, rec, and history work plans are pretty much done and will be shared with the whole group.
- The water quality group will look into creating a river report card.
- Jim MacCartney noted that spending outside the W&S towns is allowed as long as it supports the rivers management plan or the W&S designation.

land protection map update:

SRPC has provided a second draft, but more edits are needed. Joe Foley will coordinate another review session.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.