

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED NOVEMBER 19, 2024 as amended (see project review)

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Jim Brady (Lee); Ben Buckley, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham);

representatives attending by phone: Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions passed:

Dick Lord made a motion to continue monthly transfers of \$10,000 from the operating budget to the land protection account through June 2025. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously including by phone participant.

approval of minutes from July 16, 2024:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention. Therese Thompson voted yes by phone.

financial reports:

- Bank statement, year-to-date budget, and land protection fund reports had ordinary activity and no concerns were noted.
- FY2024 ended on Sept. 30 and FY2025 has begun. This is year 5 of the 5-year cooperative agreement. We need to monitor the budget closely.
- **Dick Lord made a motion to continue monthly transfers of \$10,000 from the operating budget to the land protection account through June 2025. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously including by phone participant.**

Lee Public Canoe Access:

- Repairs were completed on October 1. The Public Access sign was relocated to the right side of the stairs. Erosion control measures were installed including straw wattles and a receiving sedimentation basin made of hay bales and dewatering filter bag. This basin was placed in the upland vegetated area adjacent to the access road. A temporary sandbag coffer dam was installed along the river bottom and water within the coffer dam area was pumped up into the sedimentation basin. Crushed stone (3/4") was placed and compacted into

the void beneath the lowest step. The dewatered river bottom was leveled and a new 3' x 6' granite slab was placed as a new bottom step. Vegetation was removed from the area to the left of the stairs which served as an access point for the work. Following coffer dam removal, fresh loam was installed, grass seed mix was spread and the site was mulched. Water bars were added according to the permitted plans. (As of October 15, the water bar area was already showing green growth.) Straw wattles will remain in place and will naturally decay. The parking area was regraded, making use of left-over crushed gravel. Only one slab of granite was needed. The extra two granite slabs (5'x 2') will be delivered to Lee DPW for future use along the river. All work was supervised by Grace Levergood.

- Grace mentioned that due to the under-bank erosion that is ongoing on the Lamprey River a more permanent repair for the area would involve installing concrete retaining walls with a concrete footing and tied into the granite walls on either side of the existing granite stair case. This would require engineering services for design and construction oversight. This approach was suggested in 2021 but such an extensive project was not chosen by the committee.
- Estimate of \$9,000 from 2022 was below today's actual cost. Rec. workgroup discussed and voted to allow up to an additional \$4000 from rec budget.
- The Lee Cons. Comm. requests volunteers October 16, 10-noon to help cut and pull invasives.
- Poison ivy pulls were conducted May 11 and August 1. A third session is planned for November. This work is funded by a LRAC Community Grant to the Lee Cons. Comm.
- Wadleigh Falls history panels have been ordered and are in production.

maps for management plan revision:

Stafford Regional Planning Commission shared a fresh set of static maps Oct. 15 that incorporated the last round of requested changes. Two issues that remain were discussed and will be forwarded for one last revision to the static maps. Due to delays by SRPC, the existing contract will be revised to allow for an extension without further cost to LRAC.

water quality:

Many issues could and should be followed, but volunteers are lacking. Three sites are being studied in Nottingham, but NHES reports essentially no other VRAP studies are taking place in the Lamprey River watershed.

American toad research update:

David Steinberg reported that detailed DNA analysis of toad lesions showed what appears to be a new, unknown pathogen. The closest genetic match is a fish pathogen. Late-spring and summer toad surveys in the Lamprey River watershed did not yield additional infected toads and no additional reports from areas outside were received. Research next spring will focus heavily on field work locally and requesting collaboration from biologists in adjacent states.

project review:

Members reviewed draft letters to NHDES and towns regarding the following projects: (This statement was added as an amendment.)

- Epping, sports complex, AoT
 - Applicant desires to construct three open-air turf fields and an indoor sports complex containing additional fields and amenities.
 - Stormwater treatment areas are extremely high maintenance.
 - Application material is inconsistent regarding the turf fields: grass or artificial. Artificial turf is unacceptable to LRAC.
- Epping, sports complex, wetlands
 - Applicant desires to fill 4,885 SF of forested wetlands to accommodate buildings and parking lot.
 - Proposed work immediately abuts two vernal pools. If plans are permitted, the pools will cease to be useful to any wildlife.
- Epping, Sig Sauer 50-yard shooting range after-the-fact AoT
 - Applicant desires to establish compliance for an existing 15,000 SF building and associated driveway.
 - Applicant is requesting four waivers for normal permit requirements that would protect water quality in the Class A Piscassic River.
 - Photos provided show lack of maintenance of stormwater treatment areas.
- Epping, WWTF lagoon # 2 decommissioning
 - Applicant desires to decommission lagoon #2 and utilize the area for a solar power generation.
 - No specific plans for the solar panels were provided.

other:

Schoppmeyer Park, Newmarket: The property adjacent to the park was found to have a failed septic system and was contaminating the stream. The town code enforcement office taped off the area, but access to the dock (and potentially swimming) can still occur via the woods near the water. The landowner has 90 days to correct the problem.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Dan Davis seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00.