

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019**

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

APPROVED DECEMBER 19, 2019

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

staff present: Jim MacCartney , Suzanne Petersen

guests: Dennis Garnham, Mike Unger

absent: Al Hall, Cris Blackstone, Ann Scholz , Michelle Shattuck

summary of motions passed:

- **John Wallace made a motion to approve up to \$300 for shelving at The Loft. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the Little River Park Improvements Community Grant for \$4375. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was passed with 10 votes and 1 abstention.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve a \$6000 Community Grant to the UNH Water Quality Analysis Laboratory for the purpose of developing nutrient budgets along the river. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.**

Meeting began at 7:03.

approval of minutes from October 15, 2019:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kitty Miller seconded. Minutes were approved with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.

financial report:

- It was noted that last month's minutes indicated that we are in the fifth and final year of the cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. This is not correct: we are in the fourth year of a five year agreement.
- All statements were reviewed and everything was found to be in order. Year-to-date is on track.

outreach workgroup update: Nothing to report.

history workgroup update:

- The Thompson Forest kiosk panel has been installed and a public walk was held on Saturday.
- The kiosk at Doe Farm in Durham has room for additional information. Money has already been secured from Durham, but Dick Lord will help with content.
- A suggestion was made to do an industrial archaeology study of Packers Falls in Durham. Dick will work with the Durham Conservation Commission, which owns the land, to explore the possibilities.

recreation workgroup update:

The group did not meet this month, but highlights from the draft work plan were shared.

wildlife workgroup update:

Plans for FY2020 include the following projects:

- educational push about the reasons to protect riparian buffers, perhaps through another family-friendly book similar to Chick and Dee-Dee
- educational push about protecting cavity trees for wildlife
- It was noted that LRWA is trying to gather riparian landowner contact information and this would be a good audience.

project review:

- Newmarket, after-the-fact emergency culvert repair on Grant Road:
June 26, 2019. NHDOT removed a ten foot section of 48" culvert that was clogged with debris and causing imminent danger to the road and abutter. The 48" pipe was replaced with 24" HDPE to match the downstream end. The 24" HDPE pipe was the most expedient replacement and from our perspective it should suffice for most water passage and had a minimal new impact.
- Epping, WWTF lagoon closure:
The Epping WWTF proposes to close two lagoons that had been used for providing a constant inflow to the facility at night when normal flows were low. Upgraded technology will allow treatment without supplemental inputs. No objections were noted based on the information provided.
- Newfields, Old Lee Road, revised wetland:
The proponent desires to construct a 6 lot conventional subdivision with two wetland crossings impacting 6,370 square feet. While the earlier plan has been scaled back significantly, we remain concerned about the potential for harm to natural hydrology and exceptional ecology that this project might cause.

- Nottingham, Ada Road and Sera Drive, two combined AoT applications:

The proponent desires to construct two subdivisions:

- Lot 22, Sera Drive, will disturb 3.56 acres to accommodate twelve dwelling units in three buildings.
- Lott 22-3, Ada Road, will disturb 3.68 acres to accommodate twelve dwelling units in three buildings.

The Natural Heritage Bureau report indicates that threatened turtles have been reported in or near the sites. Several rain gardens and other natural systems are proposed to infiltrate stormwater. We request that all catch basins be appropriately sized to capture as much sediment as possible and that these basins be suctioned regularly by the developer and subsequent owners. The location where Ada Road meets Route 4 seems to be risky for poor road visibility. We request that as much woodland be preserved as possible while addressing safety concerns.

- Epping, Pleasant View Farm, AoT:

The proponent desires to construct 83 duplex buildings on a 206.6 acre parcel located off of Route 27. The Natural Heritage Bureau report indicates that three threatened species have been reported in or near the sites. With the amount of wetlands in the area, vernal pools could be expected. Avoiding these areas should be a priority, especially with turtles in the vicinity. Water from this site drains to the Piscassic River. We request that any permits issued for this project include requirements for Sno-Pro certification for snow plowing to minimize chloride pollution to the river.

LRWA update:

LRWA is working on a strategic plan. One option being considered is focusing more on educational programs.

Macallen Dam update:

The town approved repairs and needed safety upgrades that were scheduled to begin this fall. The town received no bids, so no repairs will be taking place.

new office update:

- Materials at the old office have been sorted and labeled, but nothing has been moved yet.
- Separate contracts have been signed for bulky item storage and space at The Loft.
- Bulky items will be moved to storage this Saturday.
- Passcode and keys are needed for the Loft before shelves can be brought in and then office materials.
- **John Wallace made a motion to approve up to \$300 for shelving at The Loft. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.**

Community Grant to Lee Conservation Commission for Improvements at Little River Park:

The Lee Conservation Commission proposes to build a kiosk at the entrance, a bridge over a wet area along the trail, and install a bench and protective measures at the river to prevent wheeled vehicles from accessing the site from the river. Total requested is \$4375. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the Little River Park Improvements Community Grant for \$4375. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Motion was passed with 10 votes and 1 abstention.**

Community Grant to UNH Water Quality Analysis Laboratory to create nutrient budgets for river segments:

The UNH Water Quality Analysis Laboratory proposes to engage a graduate student to analyze existing data to determine where nutrients are added and where they are reduced to inform more precise management of river nutrients. The total request is \$6000. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve a \$6000 Community Grant to the UNH Water Quality Analysis Laboratory for the purpose of developing nutrient budgets along the river. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.**

proposal from Carolyn Matthews to hire a consultant for strategic planning:

Carolyn provided printed copies of a proposal to spend \$6000 to hire a consultant to review and recommend revisions to the *2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan* and the structure of the LRAC that would focus on the following areas:

- RSA 483, NHRMPP
- integration of 10 towns added in 2011
- feasibility of expanding Wild and Scenic designation upriver
- identifying needs and opportunities for visibility, capacity building, and sustainability of LRAC for the next decade

Most discussion focused on expanding Wild and Scenic designation. Jim MacCartney offered his perspectives on process and feasibility. While there might be benefits in terms of prestige for grant applications and protection against impediments to free flow, the process is generally long and complex where private land is involved and there is no guarantee that expanded designation will result in more funding.

Committee members were asked to consider the proposal over the next month for a possible vote in December. Does the management plan need to be replaced at this time? What specific tasks would a consultant help with in terms of RSA 483?

proposal from Cris Blackstone to host an open house at the Loft in January:

There was a consensus that we have not defined how we want to use the space at the Loft and January is not a good time of year for this kind of event. This proposal was put on hold.

proposal from Carolyn Matthews to videotape LRAC meetings:

Dennis Garnham from Raymond offered to videotape LRAC meetings to stream on the internet. He would be doing this as a member of the Raymond Cable Committee. Committee members were asked to consider this for a possible vote at the December meeting.

new wetland regulations:

NHDES will host a conference call tomorrow to discuss the new requirement of applicants for permits-by-notification and other low-impact projects to submit applications to LACs for review. In turn, LACs will be required to waive their right to review with very quick turn-around or force applications to a higher, standard wetland application process. If LACs do not sign off, NHDES must assume a full review is needed. This has the potential of putting LACs in a precarious position of delaying small, routine jobs and causing backlash with applicants. Two committee members volunteered to participate and report back.

signage follow-up:

Ten new Wild and Scenic signs were discovered at the old office. Joe Foley took one and gave it to Epping DPW to fulfill its request for a replacement. Information about NHRMPP signs was shared.

water quality score card follow-up:

Based on enthusiasm generated at the Partnership W&S Rivers conference, Ric Raymond would like to make a proposal for LRAC to consider regarding a scorecard for the Lamprey. He will share this in December.

annual report:

A one-page annual report has been prepared for submitting to town annual reports. Some representatives expressed a desire to customize the generic report for their towns. There was consensus that should be an option. Reports will be shared with representatives as soon as possible, as at least one town has a deadline for submission next week.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Mary Ann Krebs seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.