

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2025 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JUNE 17, 2025

representatives attending in person:

Matt Lake, Dick Lord, Dave Steinberg (Durham); Jim Brady (Lee); Ben Buckley (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Kathy McDonald, Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions passed:

Dave Steinberg made a motion to approve up to \$100,000 for the Rosa land protection project, with funds available through October 1, 2026. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

land protection project presentation, Ellen Snyder and Bart McDonough, Newmarket

This parcel consists of 23.9 acres in Durham and 16.3 acres in Newmarket. The project entails an easement in Newmarket and fee ownership in Durham. The property has frontage along Folletts Brook, a tributary to the Piscassic River. The property is surrounded by conservation land. It is important for water quality protection, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, farmland, and recreation. It is a high priority for Newmarket. The total costs are projected at \$401,980. LRAC is being asked to provide \$100,000 for project costs.

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retirement of Jim MacCartney:

The committee learned recently that Jim will retire at the end of May after a long career dedicated to river protection. Jim was given a cake and several river-related gifts to show our gratitude.

welcome to new reps Matt Lake of Durham and Kathy McDonald from Raymond

approval of minutes from April 15, 2025:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ben Buckley seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 1 abstention.

approval of emergency meeting minutes from May 14, 2025:

Jim Brady made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord requested an edit noting that he was acting chair for that meeting. Dave Steinberg seconded the motion with the amendment. Minutes were approved with 6 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial reports:

Bank statement, year-to-date budget, and land protection fund reports were shared. No concerns were noted.

FY2026 budget:

- Jim MacCartney still has not received budget numbers for FY 2026. LRAC's financial future is very uncertain: potential for zero funding in the near future, possible rescission of already-approved funding.
- Per recommendations from May 14 PWSR Zoom meeting, river groups were urged to pre-pay anticipated expenses for the near future if possible. Dave Steinberg will contact the storage facility and the accountant to discuss prepayment options. The committee coordinator's contract was discussed; by consensus, 3 month's expenses will be requested from the government to cover work and expenses through Aug. 1.
- With Jim's retirement and on-going uncertainty with federal funding and workforce, LRAC's new NPS contact is not known at this time.

approval of draft project review letters:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve 4 draft project review letters with amendments. Matt Lake seconded. Motion was passed with 7 yes votes and 1 abstention.

- Epping, Physical Science, Inc. at New England Dragway, AoT
- Northwood, Meadow Lake Dam repairs, wetlands
- Northwood, Meadow Lake Dam repairs, shoreland
- Nottingham, 27 Eagle Point, shoreland (NHDES already issued the permit.)

Thompson Forest kiosk panel:

As noted before, the panel has faded significantly. We have received one estimate of \$200.60 to utilize the back-side of the existing aluminum panel as the substrate for printing the new panel. A second estimate will be sought. By consensus, the committee agreed that full committee approval of this expense is not necessary. The coordinator will take care of this and submit a receipt for reimbursement.

other:

- FYI: The on-line mapper has a few issues. If you find others, please report to Suzanne.
 - Epping Town Hall WQ test site appears in the middle of Main Street, far from the river at town hall.

- Protected shoreland buffer is missing from Pawtuckaway Lake. Most 1st and 2nd order streams are exempt in the upper watershed, but stream order does not matter with an impoundment over 10 acres.
 - The protected shoreland in the tidal portion of the river in Newmarket is based on the thread of stream, not the river's edge. The WWTF appears to be exempt, but that is not true.
- FYI Schoppmeyer Park update from David Evans, Newmarket Code Enforcement Officer and Zoning Administrator

The park is open for use by the public following the recommended time frame from NHDES. NHDES recommended a period of 6 months for the contaminants to naturally dissipate from the soils. The area in question at the park was closed for close to 9 months. Additionally, research showed that the application of agricultural lime to the affected area would help expedite the process and was applied in late fall prior to the ground freezing.

The property owner capped the septic system so that there is no discharge of sewage and is routinely (every 8-10 days) pumping out the septic tank. The property owner is currently working with the Sewer Department to connect to the town sewer.

- FYI per Lori Summer, SELT:
 - I'm very excited to announce we closed on the Robert Rix #2 project and the deed was recorded on Friday, May 16. That is due to support from LRAC and dedicated folks to help provide funds for conservation. We could not have done this project without LRAC coming through and providing the much-needed transaction funding to see the project completed. With this addition, we have protected 180-acres in a very sensitive wildlife and fisheries resource area.
- FYI, new land protection project in the works, SELT will present in June.
- FYI, Herring Aid was held last Saturday at Macallen Dam. Attendance was good. River herring numbers seem to be as high as last year, so around 100,000.

next meeting: June 17, 2025

adjournment:

Ben Buckley made a motion to adjourn. Kathy McDonald seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Petersen