

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026 7:00 P.M.



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED FEB. 17, 2026

representatives attending in person:

Matt Lake, Dick Lord, Dave Steinberg (Durham); Jim Brady, Sara Morris (Lee); Dan Mullaney, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Emma Lord, Suzanne Petersen

guest: Rob Weymers, Brentwood

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions passed:

- **Sara Morris made a motion to reduce the monthly transfer of funds from the operating budget to the land protection fund back to \$5,000 per month. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Sara Morris made a motion to approve \$13,946.00 for continued bacterial tracking with UNH in 2026. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Sara Morris made a motion to approve up to \$7,500 for a community grant to enable New Hampshire Turtle Rescue to purchase 3-D printed and hand-painted turtles for public education. Dick Lord seconded. The motion passed with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention from Dave Steinberg who wanted to avoid any possible conflict of interest.**
- **Jim Brady made a motion to authorize Chair Grace Levergood to sign the 2026 MoA with SELT. David Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Sara Morris made a motion to renew the contract with the committee coordinator for 2026. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Jim Brady made a motion to re-elect Dick Lord as vice-chair and David Steinberg as treasurer for two years. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed with 6 yes votes and the two officers abstaining.**
- **Jim Brady made a motion that LRAC reimburse the coordinator up to \$1,500 for a new laptop. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion for the LRAC to submit a letter of testimony against HB 1603. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from December 16, 2025:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Therese Thompson seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

- Year-to-date, checking account activity, and land protection fund were reviewed with no issues noted.
- Following a discussion, **Sara Morris made a motion to reduce the monthly transfer of funds from the operating budget to the land protection fund back to \$5,000 per month. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

bacterial tracking 2025 wrap-up, Steve Jones

key points

- As in the previous 4 years, the Moonlight Brook outlet at Schanda Park in Newmarket had consistently elevated levels of all fecal indicators, including *E. coli*, on 6 of 7 dates and the highest average overall concentration. Fecal bacteria linked to humans continue to be present.
- Samples along the length of Moonlight Brook indicate that contamination is common, with no clear source. On average, all sites exceeded state standards and pose a threat to human health.
- Along the Moonlight Brook, human fecal contamination was consistently detected in both 2024 and 2025: 26-29% of samples
- *E. coli* numbers exceeded state limits at least once at most test sites this year, despite very dry conditions.
- The good news: 5-year trend analysis shows that most sites are well below the state limit for *E. coli*, indicating that most areas are safe for fishing and swimming. Moonlight Brook is the exception.

renewal of bacterial tracking research for 2026:

Sara Morris made a motion to approve \$13,946.00 for continued bacterial tracking with UNH in 2026. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Hampshire Turtle Rescue community grant request, Drew Stevens

New Hampshire Turtle Rescue is a volunteer-run registered 501-c-3 organization that is licensed by NH Fish and Game to rescue and rehabilitate all native NH turtles, including four species listed as threatened, endangered or of concern. NHTR is also heavily engaged with public education about turtles and how people can help them. Taking live turtle ambassadors to these public events puts the animals into a stressful situation and requires a great deal of human work. The group requested \$7,500 to purchase a complete set of life-size, realistic, 3-D printed and hand-painted plastic turtles to use for educational purposes.

Sara Morris made a motion to approve up to \$7,500 for a community grant to enable New Hampshire Turtle Rescue to purchase 3-D printed and hand-painted turtles for public education. Dick Lord seconded. The motion

passed with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention from Dave Steinberg who wanted to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

renewal of memorandum of understanding between LRAC and SELT

The draft memorandum was reviewed and a few minor changes to reflect the current year were made. It was noted that LRAC's fiscal agent, LRWA, had reviewed the agreement and signed the draft.

Jim Brady made a motion to authorize Chair Grace Levergood to sign the 2026 MoA with SELT. David Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

renewal of contract with committee coordinator

Sara Morris made a motion to renew the contract with the committee coordinator for 2026. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

election of vice-chair and treasurer

In accordance with the bylaws, **Jim Brady made a motion to re-elect Dick Lord as vice-chair and David Steinberg as treasurer for two years. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed with 6 yes votes and the two officers abstaining.**

Lee 250 parade and celebration

The Town of Lee is looking for groups to participate in the parade and afternoon celebration at Little River Park. Options were discussed, but there was little interest other than setting up the LRAC display tent.

Wild and Scenic Film Festivals

It was noted that LRAC helped to sponsor the W&S Film Festival in Concord led by the NH Rivers Council last year. SELT offers a similar festival in Portsmouth. There was no interest in sponsoring again this year.

new lap top for LRAC needed

The old laptop that has been used for slide presentations recently suffered an accident that has ended its useful life. **Jim Brady made a motion that LRAC reimburse the coordinator up to \$1500 for a new laptop. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

HB 1603-FN

This bill will require state agencies to provide current and verifiable evidence of a species' presence before imposing any land use restriction related to that species' habitat. Sara Morris drafted a letter of testimony against this bill. **Dick Lord made a motion for the LRAC to submit a letter of testimony against HB 1603. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

group activity to reboot workgroups

Reps were asked to review the *2025 Lamprey River Management Plan* work area goals, key future actions, and other tasks and tentatively sign up for workgroups that they might enjoy. Key focus areas include the following: history, land protection, project review, public engagement, recreation, water resources, and wildlife.

adjournment

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Grace Levergood seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Petersen.