

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MARCH 17, 2026

representatives attending in person:

John Wallace (Barrington); Matt Lake, Dick Lord (Durham); Jim Brady, Sara Morris (Lee); Dan Mullaney, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Kathy McDonald, Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Emma Lord, Suzanne Petersen

guest: Tom Rettberg, Newfields

Meeting began at 6:50.

summary of motions passed:

- **Matt Lake made a motion to approve the laptop computer depreciation and ownership agreement with the coordinator. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Therese Thompson made a motion to approve up to \$7,500.00 for a community grant to the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association for the purpose of managing milfoil infestation in 150 acres of the lake. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget as proposed. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Therese Thompson made a motion to approve the draft wetland permit comments regarding a new dock at 15 Moody Point in Newmarket. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Sara Morris made a motion for LRAC to send a letter to Epping and NHDES to request a declaration of regional impact so that the abutting and downstream towns can air their concerns. Kathy McDonald seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to request up to \$20,000 from the W&S NPS funding opportunity to go toward Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil abatement. If successfully won, then LRAC will rescind the evening's earlier motion regarding the \$7500 community grant, so that in a future year the Pawtuckaway Lake Association could apply for the community grant for follow-up milfoil treatment. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Kathy McDonald made a motion to purchase an 8x10 turtle print from David Carroll to be used as raffle prize for Turtlefest 2026 in Newmarket. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from January 20, 2026:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved with 9 yes votes and 1 abstention.

agreement between LRAC and committee coordinator re: new Dell laptop:

The fiscal agent recommended that LRAC pay for the new computer in full and apply a four-year depreciation schedule concerning transfer of ownership to the coordinator. **Matt Lake made a motion to approve the laptop computer depreciation and ownership agreement with the coordinator. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil treatment grant proposal presentation, Neil Santos:

Since 2015, when invasive milfoil was first detected in Pawtuckaway Lake, there has been a concerted effort to remove and control this weed using prevention, detection, and removal by certified divers. In 2023, Procella herbicide was applied to three sections of the heaviest infestation with great success. In 2025, the north part of the lake became infested for the first time. The lake association has been working with NHDES to address this problem. The full cost to treat 150 acres of the densest infestation is over \$144,000. The lake association has secured \$127,377 and has a current funding gap of \$17,000. They are requesting a \$7,500.00 community grant to help close the gap. **Therese Thompson made a motion to approve up to \$7,500.00 for a community grant to the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association for the purpose of managing milfoil infestation in 150 acres of the lake. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

financial report:

- Year-to-date, checking account activity, and land protection fund were reviewed with no issues noted.
- The NPS provided a draft 2026-2027 budget for review. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget as proposed. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

project review letters:

Therese Thompson made a motion to approve the draft wetland permit comments regarding a new dock at 15 Moody Point in Newmarket. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

citizen concern: Resource Waste Systems proposed transfer station in Epping, Tom Rettberg, Newfields Cons. Comm.

The LRAC did a thorough review and submitted comments to NHDES as public testimony in November on this proposed project. Unbeknownst to us, this project is very close to the town lines of Newfields, Exeter, and Brentwood, yet none of these towns received any information about the project from the applicant or NHDES. This proposal has the potential to cause significant harm to these

adjoining towns, but they have not been provided with details and their concerns are not being given full consideration as abutters.

LRAC is being asked to do two things:

- Submit a letter to Epping and NHDES to encourage them to recognize this as a project of regional significance.
- Co-sponsor a public information session with the applicant to inform the public about this proposal.

Sara Morris made a motion for LRAC to send a letter to Epping and NHDES to request a declaration of regional impact so that the abutting and downstream towns can air their concerns. Kathy McDonald seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

LRAC will work with the Newfields Cons. Comm. to plan a public information event, probably to be held in Newmarket in March. Final comments to NHDES are due by April 12.

Wild and Scenic Rivers supplemental funding opportunity:

Matt Lake, acting LRAC rep to the W&S coalition, received a notice that extra funding up to \$30,000 was available for addressing goals of comprehensive river management goals in the following areas: invasive species management, organizational capacity building, visitor use management and recreation, or drought, flood, or environmental resistance.

Given the milfoil situation in Pawtuckaway Lake and the budgetary shortfall to address it despite the recently approved LRAC grant, the committee discussed applying for the grant. **Dick Lord made a motion to request up to \$20,000 from the W&S NPS funding opportunity to go toward Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil abatement. If successfully won, then LRAC will rescind the evening's earlier motion regarding the \$7500 community grant, so that in a future year the Pawtuckaway Lake Association could apply for the community grant for follow-up milfoil treatment. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Newmarket's Turtlefest, May 9:

This all-day event was popular last year and will be held again this year. LRAC has not been asked to participate directly, but its support would be appreciated. David Carroll is a noted artist who has done a lot of turtle research along the Lamprey River. It was suggested that donating a signed turtle print could help support the event and give LRAC some publicity. **Kathy McDonald made a motion to purchase an 8x10 turtle print from David Carroll to be used as raffle prize for Turtlefest 2026 in Newmarket. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

workgroup update:

All reps attending the meeting last month were asked to start the process of reestablishing workgroups to address goals of the new management plan. No action occurred to decide possible meeting times or discussing possible actions or projects. Results of last month's survey were reshared and all reps were encouraged to jump in.

Frogsong board:

Many visual materials have been gathered, but expertise from a graphic designer probably needs to begin sooner rather than later. Several requests were made to make sure the Frogsong material is available on the website, including snippets of songs that will be on the board. Links to full songs and variations will also be available.

project review team:

Grace Levergood would like to offer a practice session using a project from 2024 or 2025. Offering quick mini-lessons after regular meetings was also suggested.

adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Jim Brady seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Petersen.