

# Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

## March 17, 2026 7:00 P.M.



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED APRIL 21, 2026

### representatives attending in person:

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

staff: Suzanne Petersen

guest: Natalie Danek, UNH student

Meeting began at 7:08.

### summary of motions passed:

- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the four project review letters as amended. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to rescind the \$7,500 community grant to Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association and replace it with a \$17,000 PWSR supplemental grant. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **David Steinberg made a motion to approve up to \$7,500 for the Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism community grant for Elm Street mural re-imagined. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dan Davis made a motion to approve up \$2,000 for a community grant to the Nottingham Conservation Commission to support its Bioblitz and Wild Discovery Day. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 to cover graphic art and printing costs for the new Frogsong display. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### approval of minutes from February 17, 2026:

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

### financials:

- Checking account, year-to-date, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.
- The \$17,000 supplemental PWSR grant that we requested for Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil control was approved and will be applied to the FY2026-2027 budget.
- Based on committed grant funding and other projected expenses, the amount of money available for future community grants this year needs to be watched carefully. If needed, we could temporarily reduce or end transfers to the land protection account. Sara Morris made a motion to reduce monthly land protection transfers to \$3,500, but after discussion, she withdrew the motion.

approval of project review letters:

Applications reviewed:

- Epping, Fecteau Corner Phase 1, AoT
- Epping, Fecteau Corner Phase 1, wetlands
- Epping, Fecteau Corner Phase 1, shoreland
- Nottingham, 13 Fort Hill Road, shoreland

**Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the four project review letters as amended. Sara Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association community grant rescission:

The LRAC applied for and received a \$17,000 supplemental grant from the PWSR to be used for milfoil control in Pawtuckaway Lake. This money fills the gap needed for planned control activities this summer. By rescinding the previously approved \$7,500 community grant, the PLIA can complete the planned management this summer and can re-apply for a community grant in the future if needed. **Dick Lord made a motion to rescind the \$7,500 community grant to Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association and replace it with a \$17,000 PWSR supplemental grant. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism Commission community grant request for Elm Street mural upgrade:

The basics of this grant were presented to the LRAC late in 2025 and the committee members expressed enthusiasm for the project. Upon review of the final grant application, **David Steinberg made a motion to approve up to \$7,500 for the Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism community grant for Elm Street mural re-imagined. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Nottingham Conservation Commission bioblitz and Wild Discovery Day community grant request, Drew Stevens:

Nottingham Cons. Comm. Rep. Drew Stevens presented the goals and activities for this May 2 event. Several town and local wildlife organizations have joined forces for what they hope will be the first of many bioblitzes. The town is in the process of updating its Natural Resource Inventory and this activity will help support that goal. Materials secured through the grant will be kept at the town library for future events. **Dan Davis made a motion to approve up \$2,000 for a community grant to the Nottingham Conservation Commission to support its Bioblitz and Wild Discovery Day. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Frogsong display:

Graphic art estimates range from \$700 - \$1,000. Printing estimate is \$325.14. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 to cover graphic art and printing costs for the new Frogsong display. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

workgroup updates:

- recreation:
  - Plans are being made for a guided June 6 paddle from Piscassic Park to Doe Farm and back. Ellen Snyder has agreed to be the on-board naturalist. Ted Howard has agreed to give a Doe Farm Forestry Plan presentation. Dick Lord

has agreed to provide history of the farm. Initial outreach to Seven Rivers has begun. Dave Steinberg and Dan Mullaney offered to help.

- Other potential activities this year include a guided bird walk, paddleboarding at Mary Blair Park, and having an LRAC presence at the Lamprey River Canoe Race in April.
- wildlife: A suggestion was made earlier that LRAC might help set up a vernal pool “big night” road crossing event. After discussion, it was determined that having folks drive to a gathering spot might end up harming more frogs and salamanders than if we kept those cars off the road. Dave Steinberg will look into organizing a UNH crossing brigade so that participants can walk rather than drive. He reported that spotted salamanders are already out and about and some frogs have started to chorus. Most of these amphibians should be OK if temperatures dip back into the freezing range.
- history: Patrick Reynolds suggested that we identify public sites along the river that currently lack signage. John Wallace and Kathy McDonald expressed interest.

other:

- Epping waste transfer station update: LRAC letter to Epping requesting Declaration of Regional Impact was sent and copied to all affected towns. From Rockingham Planning Commission March 3: “We’ve informally spoken with Epping about this. If/when they get an application before the Planning Board or Zoning Board, regional impact will be considered. They don’t anticipate anything until late summer at the earliest.”
- NHFGD reported that the Macallen Dam in Newmarket passed 566 American shad last year. Many hundreds or thousands more were observed below the dam. Efforts at stocking shad fry from other rivers are working to restore shad to the Lamprey. (Shad were listed among the Outstandingly Remarkable Resources in the 1996 W&S designation.) 2025 was a record year for river herring, too: almost 121,000.
- Epping voters approved a bond issue to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000,000.00 (gross budget) for the purpose of a wastewater treatment facility upgrade. The vote was 905 for, 556 against.
- Newmarket voters passed all water-related ballot initiatives.

adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Meeting notes recorded by Suzanne Petersen