

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026 7:00 P.M.



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JUNE 16, 2026

representatives attending in person:

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

staff: Emma Lord, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions passed:

John Wallace made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 for the June 6 guided public paddle from Piscassic Park to Doe Farm and back. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from April 21, 2026:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financials:

Checking account, year-to-date, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted. The NPS Supplemental Grant for \$17,000 has not been made available yet, but it should be soon.

Gundalow Company Community Grant discussion, continued from April

The Gundalow Company's community grant request for \$2,793 from April was left undecided. While the Gundalow can offer the LRAC a platform for public outreach, it was felt that it was not well suited for the type of ecological outreach that would be most impactful, particularly the inability of the vessel to allow passengers to see what is below the surface of Great Bay and the mouth of the Lamprey River. That function could be better served using UNH's *RV Gulf Challenger*. We will look into past programs through PREP or GBNERR and see if these cruises were successful at changing policy upstream. Members expressed interest in using the Gundalow and its place in local history in a potential partnership with Newmarket in 2027 as the town celebrates its 300th anniversary.

June 6 guided public paddle

We have confirmed participation with Seven Rivers Paddling for safety, boat rentals and potential shuttle service. We have confirmed participation with a wetland scientist / naturalist, forest manager, and historian. The only fixed fees at

this point are for paddling services; boat rentals are the biggest unknown. If no participants need to rent a boat and gear, the cost for the event will be \$400 or \$450, depending on whether a shuttle van is needed. If all participants need a boat, that could add another \$550. **John Wallace made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 for the June 6 guided public paddle from Piscassic Park to Doe Farm and back. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

upcoming events:

| | | |
|----------|--|---------------------------|
| May 28 | OLLI: Eco-history of the Lamprey River | 10:30 to noon, Portsmouth |
| June 6 | guided paddle | Piscassic Park- Doe Farm |
| June 17 | Lee Family Night Out | Little River Park, 5-8 |
| July 23 | How to Care for Your Land and River | Northwood Town Hall, 7:00 |
| August 7 | Backyard Bash | Newmarket Rec fields |

The two town events will have the LRAC tent and display. Volunteers are always welcome to help out.

The committee indicated interest in hearing the eco-history presentation as part of a future meeting or two. This will be arranged.

recent events wrap-up:

- Nottingham's bioblitz on May 2 was a big success, with over 125 people attending and over 70 species identified. New 3-D turtles were part of the NH Turtle Rescue area. LRAC did not attend due to rain.
- Newmarket's TurtleFest was held on May 9 and also had a good turn-out. Dick Lord shared the new Frog Songs display and enthralled many visitors, young and old.
- Herring Aid was held May 19 at the Macallen dam fish ladder in Newmarket. The weather was warm and sunny, a first. Glass eels were abundant. Unfortunately, no lampreys were available, probably due to cold conditions in the Gulf of Maine.

updates:

- The kiosk at the Route 87 bridge is now up after a two-year absence. The rotten bases of the kiosk frame were cut and the kiosk is now on sonotubes. The unit is supported by braces in the back. The park seems to be in good condition.
- Mary Blair Park is in good condition. Two volunteers were observed picking up litter and the whole site is litter-free. The natural playground is essentially comprised of a new sand box and a bench. All other elements originally installed are gone.

- Ellen Snyder from the Newmarket Conservation Commission sent a note that the Rosa property is now fully funded and due diligence has begun.
- Duane Hyde from SELT shared that the Banks project in Lee is moving forward. The purchase and sale agreement has been drafted and will be shared with the owner. SELT should be able to make the official LRAC funding request soon. LRAC has made a preliminary commitment pending fulfillment of Lamprey River-specific criteria.

other:

- It was noted that the Lee Public Canoe Launch needs some grass to cover bare areas along the water bars. The nails on the water bars are also starting to come out and need to be hammered down. This will be forwarded to the Lee Conservation Commission.
- There is still interest in getting an ADA kayak launch system along the Lamprey River, but where?

adjournment:

Jim Brady made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00

Meeting notes recorded by Suzanne Petersen