

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 21, 2026 7:00 P.M.



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED AUGUST 18, 2026

representatives attending in person:

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

staff: Emma Lord, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions passed:

- **John Wallace made a motion to increase the monthly transfer from the operating account to the land protection account by \$5,000 through October 1 when the new fiscal year will begin. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to extend the Rosa land protection project end date from October 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **John Wallace made a motion to approve the draft letters for Sig Sauer AoT, and Janice way condominiums AoT and shoreland as amended. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **John Wallace made a motion to approve the draft letters for multi-town herbicide application, Epping Irving Circle tank replacement, and Raymond lot-line adjustment as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Jim Brady made a motion to approve up to \$600 for a new sign and plexiglass for the canoe launch at the Route 87 bridge. Therese Thompson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from June 16, 2026:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended to reflect the bargain sale conservation easement for the Banks project in Lee. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financials:

- Checking account, year-to-date, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted. The 2026-2027 budget funding has been made available by the National Park Service.
- The current, uncommitted balance in the operating and land protection accounts were reviewed. It was felt that increasing the monthly transfer from the operating

budget to the land protection account is doable and advisable at this time. **John Wallace made a motion to increase the monthly transfer from the operating account to the land protection account by \$5,000 through October 1 when the new fiscal year will begin. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Rosa land protection project end date extension request

Ellen Snyder, Newmarket Conservation Commission chair, has requested an extension to complete the Rosa land protection project from Oct. 1, 2026 to Nov. 1, 2026. Given that land protection projects often face delays, **Dick Lord made a motion to extend the Rosa land protection project end date from October 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

project review:

- Epping, Sig Sauer maintenance facility, AoT
- Epping, Irving Circle K underground tank replacement
- Epping, Janice Way Condominiums, 327 Pleasant St., AoT
- Epping, Janice Way Condominiums, 327 Pleasant St., shoreland
- multitown, herbicide application for DoT bridge inspections
- Raymond, lot line adjustment for Raymond Baptist Church and East Coast Property Management

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- The committee received a request from NHDES for comments to replace a fuel tank along the river in Newmarket, but all work was completely contained inside. The chair had no concerns or comments, so NHDES was informed of such. Going forward, it was felt that the LRAC should have a written policy regarding some of these new notifications and whether the chair could waive review without full committee input; the committee agreed by consensus that this was appropriate. Tank replacements outside sometimes warrant comments from the full committee, so these will continue to undergo standard review.
- We received a request from NHDES for comments regarding a proposed "Mixing Zone" associated with bridge work on Route 152 in Nottingham. Based on our request for more information, NHDES offered the following and the chair waived comment:

Mixing zones cannot be used as a Primary BMP for turbidity. All traditional BMPs will be in place in addition to the mixing zone.

The mixing zone is only anticipated to be implemented in situations where minor amounts of turbid water may escape the work area. Mostly associated with the installation of the sheet piles and the removal of the cofferdam and turbidity curtain. The turbid water within the cofferdam area will be pumped to a Settlement area where turbid water will be treated prior to infiltration/discharge.

The chairs' understanding of standard practices is correct and there will be no deviation from that methodology. The intent is to keep all turbidity within the work area and behind the cofferdam/turbidity curtains and a Settlement area has been established about 75 feet from the wetland boundary in an Upland area. The mixing zone is just a way for us to measure and account for any minor turbidity leaving the immediate work area.

potential guided paddle in Epping

Based on a request from a participant from the June 18 guided paddle, LRAC was asked to consider offering a guided paddle in Epping. Dan Davis kindly spent a day in his kayak exploring conditions and found them challenging for an experienced paddler such as himself and totally unsuitable for casual paddlers and families. While opportunities exist on land along that stretch of the river, conditions in and along the river itself preclude further consideration for a guided paddle.

no-cost Gundalow opportunity:

While the LRAC considered and ultimately voted against providing grant money for a Great Bay/ Lamprey River gundalow cruise, a private donor has offered to pay for 5 or 6 Gundalow cruises this late summer or early fall. The information provided by the Gundalow Company was vague, but it was felt that some clarity might be offered at the July 22 Great Bay 2030 vision conference. An update will be shared with committee members. The committee members also felt pursuing a cruise on the UNH *RV Gulf Challenger* would be a worthwhile exercise, probably next summer.

Route 87 bridge canoe launch sign

The canoe launch sign was installed new in 2019. A few years later, vandals spray-painted graffiti over roughly one half of the sign. The Epping Conservation Commission has tried to remove the graffiti, but removing it will ruin the sign. The LRAC has been asked to replace the sign. Estimates from two local sign makers were solicited, ranging from \$175 to print a new sign on the back of the current sign to \$379 to create a sign using all-new materials. Whether we can print on the existing panel cannot be determined until the company can assess the actual sign. Given the likelihood and expense of paying for another sign if vandals strike

again, it was suggested that we also purchase plexiglass to cover the actual sign so that future replacements will be easier and less expensive. **Jim Brady made a motion to approve up to \$600 for a new sign and plexiglass for the canoe launch at the Route 87 bridge. Therese Thompson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

upcoming events:

- July 23, *How to Protect our Land and River* presentation, Northwood Town Hall, 7:00
- August 15, Durham Farm Day, LaRoche Farm
- October 17, SELT Trail Fest, 10:00 – 3:00

next meeting: August 18, Lee Public Safety Complex

optional presentation: Eco-history of the Lamprey River, Suzanne Petersen

adjournment:

No official adjournment took place, but the meeting ended at 8:45 following the presentation.

Minutes recorded by Suzanne Petersen