

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MARCH 21, 2023

summary of motions:

Dennis Regan made a motion to note that the LRAC supports the Lee Conservation Commission's plan to remove invasive glossy buckthorn from the Lee Public Canoe Access. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll-call votes by representatives attending by phone.

Dennis Regan made a motion to provide an additional \$360.00 for the Instream Flow Management Grant so that hourly reports can continue to be loaded to the NHDES stream flow website. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call votes from representatives attending by phone.

representatives attending in person: Joe Foley (Epping); Dick Lord (Durham); Jim Brady, Kitty Miller, Dennis Regan (Lee); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Mary Ann Krebs (Durham), Jerry Martin, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket), John Wallace (Barrington)

staff: Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

presentation with Anne Tappan, Lee Conservation Commission
glossy buckthorn removal plan at the Lee Public Canoe Access

Invasive glossy buckthorn is well established at the canoe access and is serving as a source of seeds for the Rothwell Reserve across the street and sites downstream. The conservation commission plans to eliminate these shrubs as follows:

Control of glossy buckthorn and other invasives will be by manual methods only. Initial removal will concentrate on larger, berry producing, or donor plants. It will take multiple years to bring the invasives on this site under control. No herbicides will be used.

- Donor buckthorns (mature seed producing plants) will be cut and prevented from sprouting by covering the stumps with "Buckthorn Baggies" or a homemade version. Work will be done when berries are not present. The covers will remain in place for year or two, until the stump rots. Covers will then be removed.
- Seedlings and small plants will be pulled by hand. Stubborn plants will be lifted using hand tools. Minimal soil disturbance will occur using these methods.
- Cut or pulled invasives will be removed from the site or chipped and spread on site. Chipping and spreading will only be an option when no berries are present.
- Work is planned to begin spring of 2023, in late March or early April depending on site conditions. Removal of buckthorn, and other invasives, will be done anytime berries are not present.

- Work will be conducted by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members and volunteers under the direction of the LCC.
- The public will be informed about the project through on-site signs such as “Habitat Restoration Work in Progress”, articles in the Lee E-Crier, and the LCC Face Book page. Information will be provided to Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) to post.

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presentation with Joe Schmidl, NHDES
instream flow gage deployment update for the five designated tributaries

Four of the flow stations have been installed and are generating data with hourly reports to NHDES. The fifth station, on the Little River, has been sited and the installation team is awaiting final approval from NHDOT. Data will need to be collected for 30 years to generate a realistic case for “typical” flows, but the data so far show that the tributaries have unique characteristics that respond differently to relief pulses and weather events.

The gaging station on the North Branch in Candia was damaged by natural causes earlier this winter. The vendor can repair it for \$360.00. If NHDES lowers the frequency of reports from every hour to every six hours, the overall grant budget will cover the repair expense. Stream flow would continue to be collected every 15 minutes.

Committee members noted that recreationists would find hourly updates more helpful than updates that might be six hours old.

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approval of minutes from January 17, 2023:

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

financial report:

The bank account statement, year-to-date expenditures, and the land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.

workgroup updates:

project review:

- A shoreland permit-by-notification for culvert repairs at Freese’s Pond in Deerfield was received. No comments needed.
- A multi-town alteration of terrain application for powerline maintenance and tower replacement was reviewed. Multiple rare species were noted on the NHB report, but no

specifics were provided. There were no signs of coordination or recommendations by NHFG. The vernal pool survey is planned for this spring. Chief concerns were the number of rare species noted without input from NHFG, the timing of work that is proposed to begin this spring and continue through fall when reptiles will be most at risk, and the need to curtail public access by ATVs and four-wheel drive vehicles along powerline corridors that results in heavy wetland damage.

land protection:

- Rumors are spreading that the owner of the Wadleigh Falls Dam is planning to install hydroelectric power. Jim MacCartney clarified what the W&S designation might allow and what is absolutely forbidden. This dam is currently the limit for upstream river herring migration.
- SELT might have a project proposal for LRAC's consideration soon.

outreach:

Key actions for 2023 include building visibility for the rivers and LRAC, developing opportunities to highlight Indigenous presence and local knowledge by combining outreach and recreation, and increasing accessibility for all by re-engaging with schools and libraries.

recreation:

Repairs at the Lee Public Canoe Access were delayed last year in part because of lack of access to materials. It was suggested that materials be ordered well in advance to ensure availability once the water is low enough to begin work.

history:

The Town of Lee is making progress on its idea to increase awareness of the Wadleigh Falls historic district. A public meeting will be held in March.

wildlife:

An update on the riparian knotweed grant will be presented in March. A prospective LRAC member was in attendance and will suggest projects that we could pursue.

water:

- Bacterial tracking for 2023 will begin in April.
- The bacteria problem at Schanda Park is being shared with PREP and the Great Bay 2030 project team.
- Epping has ordered new filters for the WWTF. The sewer department is working on a containment building to keep the lagoons warmer in winter while the town and NHDES figure out how to get the WWTF in compliance to prevent discharges of partially treated effluent during cold weather.
- The oil spill of 250 gallons of heating fuel recently reported near Heron Point in Newmarket was due to a leak from an older private residence that had a floor drain in the cellar. NHDES has collected most of the oil, but the smell is still present in the area.

management plan revision:

Each representative was given a section from the management plan of other rivers. Reps were asked to document three positive and three negative components of the overall plans and their usefulness to users. Each rep was also asked to compare a work area of the LRAC plan to the other river's plan.

adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.