

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MAY 16, 2023

summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to elect David Steinberg as treasurer through the next regularly scheduled election of treasurer in January 2024. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.

Dick Lord made a motion to approve renewal of the agreement between LRAC and SELT. David Steinberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Joe Foley (Epping); Jim Brady, Kitty Miller, Dennis Regan (Lee); Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Mary Ann Krebs (Durham); Jerry Martin (Newmarket)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

approval of minutes from March 21, 2023:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. David Steinberg seconded. Minutes were approved with 8 yes votes including roll call votes with attendees by phone and 1 abstention.

financial report:

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

The current treasurer, Mary Ann Krebs, has decided not to seek re-appointment when her committee term ends in May. David Steinberg offered to complete Mary Ann's term as treasurer which will end in January 2024. **Dick Lord made a motion to elect David Steinberg as treasurer through the next regularly scheduled election of treasurer in January 2024. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.** Joe Foley will go to the bank with David to establish check-signing authorization.

project review:

- Eversource powerline upgrade in Deerfield: Andrew Ackerman from GZA noted that all work incorporates best management practices to reduce erosion. Committee members reiterated their concerns, as noted in the comment letter submitted to NHDES, that barriers to public access along the powerline corridor when work is completed must be strengthened to reduce damage by ATVs. Andrew said he would investigate placing more boulders at access points to help exclude ATVs.
- Durham, 302 Newmarket Road, shoreland permit application: The applicant desires to build a new house and associated infrastructure. The paper application and engineering plans were unavailable for review, but electronic documents were reviewed. The applicant is seeking after-the-fact permission to remove and stump several trees, but the application does not indicate where. Several species of concern were noted. The driveway appears to be planned in the flood zone. A survey for potential vernal pools has not yet been conducted. Because LRAC is not authorized to conduct a site survey, we will be encouraging the Durham Conservation Commission and Durham Planning Board to do so.

management plan update:

Reviews and comments of other river management plans that were turned in last month have been collated. To help committee members focus on issues and what they want or do not want in the new plan, draft sections will be written to elicit comments from committee members.

renewal of agreement between LRAC and SELT:

Joe Foley pointed out that the agreement for management of land protection funding is overdue for renewal. Other than updating the mailing address for SELT, there were no changes from past years' agreements. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve renewal of the agreement between LRAC and SELT. David Steinberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.**

other:

- Voters in Raymond recently approved increasing the protected buffer around major wetlands, streams, and ponds from 25 feet to 75 feet.
- The State of New Hampshire is seeking to add 35 new campsites and increase capacity for RVs at Pawtuckaway Lake State Park. A public hearing was held recently. Lake volunteers have been working hard for many years to eradicate Eurasian milfoil and have begun efforts to eradicate Chinese mystery snail that has recently arrived. The Pawtuckaway Lake Association has been expressing grave concern about the added risks of more invasives' entering the lake due to more people and boat traffic to the lake. Given that the lake is drawn down each fall, with water going into the Lamprey River, Therese Thompson argued that invasives should be brought under control first to reduce the risk of infestation

into the Lamprey River, which for the time being, is free of Eurasian milfoil and Chinese mystery snail.

- A preliminary meeting with the LRWA was held to discuss repeating the Streamwalk assessment conducted in 2009. There is great enthusiasm from both groups that this is a valuable exercise to assess conditions and issues along the full length of the river and to educate and engage the public. The tentative goal for this year is to update assessment sheets and conduct test runs, with the larger goal of implementing the full assessment in 2024.
- A guided tour by car of the lower Lamprey River will be offered to new members in May.
- Patrick Reynolds reported that Newmarket will be working with Dr. Steve Jones to identify sampling sites upstream of downtown Newmarket to help pinpoint the source of bacterial contamination of Moonlight Brook. The LRAC has already approved funding for this extra analysis.
- Patrick Reynolds also reported that the Newmarket Recreation Department has purchased an additional kayak rack for Piscassic Park so that people can rent a slot for their private kayaks. This should help to contain boats and keep paddlers and boats off sensitive areas.
- It was reported that some people from Durham are very concerned about the water quality of the river due to the Epping WWTF issues. NHDES is currently in charge of managing the WWTF, keeps Durham abreast of upcoming partially-treated releases, and is tracking bacterial levels at several sites downstream of the WWTF. The LRAC is not in charge of this situation. People with concerns should contact NHDES directly.

review of land protection criteria:

- The LRAC should not be focusing on conservation projects in the tidal portion of the river, as most lots of land are too small to manage effectively and economically.
- Expand and clarify that projects along tributaries can be considered for funding.
- In the management plan, add language stating that the NPS does not support condemnation of private land for the purposes of creating conservation land. (All land protection projects are with willing landowners.)
- Add language stating that some valuable projects might not meet the criteria listed and that all projects should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Eliminate language stating, erroneously, that the NPS requires town approval of land protection projects in which LRAC is a participant.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 8:50.