

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JUNE 20, 2023

summary of motions:

John Wallace made a motion that \$10,000 be transferred monthly from the operating account to the land protection account through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2023. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by the representative 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); Ben Buckley, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Jerry Martin (Newmarket)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

approval of minutes from April 18, 2023:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously including roll call vote with attendee by phone.

financial report:

The bank account statement and year-to-date expenditures were reviewed with no issues noted. A request was made that reports be shared a bit earlier than the day of the meeting.

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Project review:

- G146 powerline upgrades, AoT, including Deerfield:
General concerns about adhering to erosion control measures, avoiding damage to 130 wetlands along the powerline corridor, and need to limit access to ATVs following the completion of work. Special note was added to extend a no-disturbance zone around a vernal pool hosting rare salamanders.

- 391, 373, & 385 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project, AoT, including Candia, Deerfield, Northwood, and Raymond:
General concerns about adhering to erosion control measures, avoiding damage to wetlands along the powerline corridor, and need to limit access to ATVs following the completion of work.

Management Plan revision update:

Draft sections for land protection, project review, and recreation were shared and reviewed. Suggested changes were recorded and will be shared before the next meeting.

The planned discussion of the wildlife section yielded several new possibilities:

- outreach regarding invasive plants and animals in the river corridors
- value of doing more herpatology studies
- tracking rehabilitated Blanding's turtles
- compiling data for trend analyses
- identifying reptile crossings at roads to reduce mortality
- identifying rare plants in the riparian zone
- outreach to encourage residents to report all sightings of rare wildlife to improve the power of NHB reports on proposed projects
- acoustic studies to estimate frog populations

other:

- Letter of deficiency for Epping WWTF from EPA was shared. LRAC members are being asked by friends and neighbors about what they have been reading in the newspapers. Epping is working on a plan to communicate better with the public. It was suggested that we contact NHDES to ascertain if the Lamprey River is failing to meet criteria for Class B waters due to releases from the Epping WWTF and to clarify potential hazards or limits to recreational use this summer.
- Pawtuckaway Lake:
 - The state is proposing to increase the number of RV camp sites at Pawtuckaway State Park right by the lake. With persistent invasive milfoil problems and the newly-discovered Chinese mystery snail, the PLIA is urging caution before increasing the number of people using the lake. At the very least, RV campsites should be further away from the shoreline.
 - Despite rigorous efforts to control and eliminate invasive milfoil manually, the plant continues to spread in the lake. Herbicide treatment with Procella has been proposed. The LRAC was concerned that the herbicide could reach the river and cause harm. It was suggested that we request advance notification from NHDES when treatment is scheduled and results of post-treatment water quality tests.
- Onyx warehouse proposal on former Regis Tannery site:
The Raymond Planning Board has contracted with GZA to help them understand the risks associated with this proposed development on a former tannery. GZA

has suggested significant additional soil and water testing. Development of the site could pose a significant risk to the Lamprey River.

- Stream Team update: Several LRAC members met with Carl Spang to go over possible next steps. This summer we will focus on asking local conservation commissions what information would be useful as actionable items. It was agreed that assessments should focus on problem areas and be quick to perform, at least to begin with. The program could be most useful as a means to engage the community in helping us be the eyes and ears of the river and the tributaries. We might need different observation sheets for spring and fall.
- New projector: The committee recently indicated it wanted a new projector, but no purchase has been made yet. In the meantime, we do have access to borrow one if needed.
- Signage: The Great Bay 2030 Initiative has a focus team for watershed-wide signage. The group was asked how they would feel about potentially adding a sign that might say “Great Bay Watershed” to existing Lamprey River Wild and Scenic signs. Depending on the exact sign that might be made, representatives indicated a willingness to consider this new signage.
- Lee Public Canoe Access:
 - Glossy buckthorn removal under the guidance of the Lee Conservation Commission has started.
 - It was noted that the posts supporting the Lee Public Canoe Access sign seem to be rotting, perhaps from carpenter ants or termites. We will contact the installer for his opinion.
 - After much back-and-forth, the Town of Lee has declared its support for placing a Wadleigh Falls history kiosk at the canoe launch.

adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.