

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JULY 18, 2023

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

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 6:45.

approval of minutes from May 16, 2023:

Dennis Regan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention.

financial report:

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

project review:

Two applications from Epping to perform herbicide spraying for patches of Japanese knotweed were reviewed. Most patches are small and treatment will be done by a certified professional, either by hand spraying or stem injection. The timing is proposed to be mid-late summer to curtail seed development and dispersal, but fall application will better ensure that the poison reaches the plants' roots.

water quality issues:

LRAC members are being asked for guidance on recreation in and near the river this summer based largely on newspaper coverage of Epping's wastewater treatment facility issues. Newmarket currently has two active sewage issues that are not as well known. NHDES has issued no guidance to the public and it needs to. The group agreed to send a letter to NHDES Commissioner Scott to stress the urgency for better communication with the public.

management plan revision:

Draft sections for previously discussed land protection, outreach, project review, recreation, and wildlife were reviewed. By consensus, future actions were added, modified, or deleted. History and water still need to be discussed and then finalized.

other:

- Epping WWTF: “Epping is currently able to treat all influent wastewater to its WWTP, and anticipates it will be able to do so moving forward”  
Tracy L. Wood, PE, Administrator  
Wastewater Engineering Bureau, Water Division, NHDES

If additional releases of partially treated sewage are planned, Epping will post signs at all public access points on the Lamprey River in Raymond, Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket and town secretaries will be notified so they can post updates on town websites and in town enews.

- latest land protection numbers:
  - 3,839 acres permanently protected
  - 19.1 miles of river frontage
  - \$5,169,557 LRAC funding for \$22,472,064 total project costs
  - LRAC has provided approx. 23% of total costs
- instream flow grant updates from Joe Schmidl (via email)
  - I just heard back from Onset regarding the repair of the North Branch MicroRX 2104. It is delayed due to supply chain issues. I will let you know when I have more info.
  - I have installed an auxiliary solar panel at the Piscassic station (03-PIS) so that it will continue to charge once the forest south of it leafs out. It had poor insolation last year. A similar panel has worked well at the North River station (03-NOR) since December – hemlocks are the problem there, year-round.
  - I got some good moderate flow readings this spring, which have extended the Little, North, and Piscassic rating curves upwards to the limit that we can measure via wading.
  - Making progress with NHDoT for permission to complete the installation at the Little River
- Sliding Rock grant: A new canoe-kayak rack has been installed. Anti-erosion fencing will be erected soon. A tag identifying LRAC as the funder will be provided to the Newmarket Conservation Commission to install.
- Piscassic Park: Two kayakers shared concerns that the trailer ramp pavers have wide, deep gaps in the section below water. These make kayak landing tricky and potentially dangerous. Adding gravel to fill the gaps would probably just require a permit-by-notification from NHDES. The natural landing area adjacent to the trailer ramp is eroded and very squishy. Addressing that to make it safer for kayakers will be much more involved
- Lee canoe Access update:  
Glossy buckthorn removal is off to a good start. Tentative start date for canoe launch upgrades is August 14, or September 11 if the water is too high in August.

- Schoppmeyer Park kayak launch:  
Follow-up on safety issues has lagged. Patrick Reynolds will follow up.
- Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil herbicide update from Amy Smagula (via email)  
“NHDES and the lake association have had conversations about herbicide in the past, but until this year, I have not felt it a reasonable option for growth, mainly because densities of milfoil were low in the lake. That is changing, and herbicide has become an option due to that increased density, and the inability of diving efforts to keep up with the milfoil growth.

In response to the questions/requests in your (LRAC) letter:

- Impacts to beneficial (aka non-target) plants: The only impacts that we have seen to native/non-target plants is a decrease in pad species (white water-lily, yellow water-lily, watershield, floating heart) following treatment. The plants do rebound within about 4-6 weeks post treatment though, and do flower before end of season. We have not observed other non-target impacts to other species. Though some of the pad species will be impacted in treatment zones, other floating-leaved plants, like pondweeds, persist through treatment, and provide that element of the community structure while the lilies rebound.
  - We have no plans to alter flow patterns of the lake around treatment.
  - We are happy to share water monitoring data, please reach out later this season to request those via email.”
- State of Our Estuaries Conference summary.  
The format this year was bold and different: less science, better networking opportunities, inclusion of a wide variety of perspectives including the arts. The majority of indicators of estuary health are cautionary, but there are still signs of hope.

future meetings and events:

- Next LRAC meeting July 18
- Stream Team meeting, August 15, 9:00 Durham Town Hall

Adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.