

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED OCTOBER 17, 2023

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

representatives attending by phone: none

guests: Steve Jones (UNH), Tracie Sales (NHDES), Amanda Barker-Jobin (NHDES), Jamie Fosburgh (NPS)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

**Summary of motions:**

- **Dick Lord made a motion to authorize funding \$6577.00 to support sample gathering, analysis, and professional and student work along Moonlight Brook in Newmarket and two new sites near Carroll Beach in Raymond. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Joe Foley made a motion to approve the transfer of \$10,000 each month from the operating budget to the land protection account through the end of FY 2024 (September 31, 2024). David Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from August 15, 2023:

John Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

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

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Bacterial tracking update and proposal, Steve Jones

Data collected so far this year from the regular 6 sites was shared, as well as additional sites in the Moonlight Brook watershed in Newmarket. Most sites had elevated counts in June and all sites had high levels in July due to all the rain. Some sites were back to normal in August, but September revealed some lingering issues. Moonlight Brook in Newmarket remains a high concern. Bacterial source tracking showed elevated human fecal bacteria through much of the Moonlight Brook watershed.

Steve shared a proposal to conduct targeted studies through November to help determine where the contamination might be coming from.

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NPS office space funding increase request, Jim MacCartney:

"We have a need to add office space to the existing lease at the Conservation Center in Concord (new hire and existing fellow). This space supports the Lamprey River and other northern New England partnership rivers. The Forest Society has ample space to accommodate this need.

The current rent is \$411.56 per month. The additional space is about \$308.51 per month. The estimated total cost would be \$720.07 per month. We anticipate the effective date of the lease amendment would be September 1, 2023.

It would be good if the LRAC could approve amendment of the existing lease through April 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$750 per month to provide for the additional space. While other northern New England partnership rivers also benefit, the Forest Society needs a single lease holder. The Lamprey is the logical choice because it is entirely within NH. LRAC gets an extra \$5K annually (above other PWSRs) to cover this cost. That amount will be increased next fiscal year to cover the additional space."

The proposal was approved by consensus.

project review:

Three projects were reviewed this month:

- Epping, 30-32 Ladds Lane, shoreland
- Raymond, Tranquility Estates water infrastructure improvements
- Raymond, Jewett warehouse, preliminary AoT

Lee Public Canoe access repairs

Repairs were scheduled for Sept. 11, but abundant recent rain and high flows in the river made the work impossible. The granite slabs have been purchased and will be installed this fall if possible.

Update on remote meetings, email from Tracie Sales (August 15):

For several years now, the Rivers and Lakes programs, including your volunteer committees, have been supporting efforts to allow state boards, commissions and committees subject to RSA 91-A (the Right-to-Know law) to meet remotely. We are not completely there yet, but we have made some progress.

Governor Chris Sununu has signed [House Bill 308](#) into law. **This revision to RSA 91-A amends the number of voting members that are required to be physically present at a meeting to one third of members, with the remaining members able to participate electronically.** For example, on a committee of 9 voting members, only 3 need to be present physically while at least two more members participating online can fulfill the standard meeting quorum requirement.

Conditions to the new law:

- HB 308 goes into effect on **October 3, 2023**.
- The committee must vote to allow a member to participate remotely, and the minutes must state why the member was not able to participate in-person (e.g. scheduling conflict, weather, personal reasons, health, etc.).
- All hybrid meetings (with physical and remote participants) must vote via Roll Call.
- Electronic participants must state who else is in the room with them.
- All members, however they are participating, must be able to see and hear one another during the meeting.
- This new law only applies to state committees, commissions and boards, not to county or municipal boards.

#### RMAC/LMAC ARC GIS, Therese Thompson and Tracie Sales

Therese attended a workshop where maps showing state-owned land along rivers could be accessed. Tracie explained that the system is still being developed and is probably more useful to the state river management group than local river groups at present. If the state intends to dispose of state-owned parcels near one of our jurisdictional rivers, NHDES will alert us so we can have the opportunity to submit comments.

#### River Access Planning Guide, Therese Thompson

Therese recently attended a seminar on this topic. She has a hard-copy guide and will send a PDF to those who wish to read the guide.

#### Conservation Hero awards

Representatives from NHDES River Management and Protection Program and the National Park Service/ Wild and Scenic Rivers were on hand to give certificates of thanks and recognition to three LRAC members.

Kitty Miller was honored by for her 25+ years of service as a LRAC representative and tireless advocate for nature. Her biological survey work was instrumental in the designation of the Lamprey River into both the state river program and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Joe Foley was honored for his 12 years on the LRAC, most of which was served as chair. During his tenure, he was a leader in guiding project reviews and advocating for permanent land protection projects along the rivers. He is stepping down so he can spend more time with his family.

Dick Lord was honored for his 32 years “and counting” on the LRAC and his role in getting the river designations. It was noted that he is the longest-serving LRAC member, and also the longest-serving Local River Advisory Committee member in the state. The value of his roots in the founding of the LRAC and his on-going involvement cannot be over-stated.

Following the presentation of awards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.