

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

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JANUARY 16, 2024

representatives attending in person: Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Jim Brady (Lee); Jerry Martin, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: none

guests: Joe Schmidl, NHDES

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen, Hannah Volk

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

Jim Brady made a motion to elect Grace Levergood as committee chair through January 2025. David Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Lord made a motion to allow Grace Levergood to sign off on waiving committee review of Permit By Notifications from NHDES. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

update on instream flow equipment and data, Joe Schmidl, NHDES

- All five tributaries now have working flow gages and are reporting near-real time data. Each data logger also has a unique QR code that visitors can use to access the data online. The five tributaries often have very similar flow graphs, but there are some distinct differences, largely related to dam management activities.
- For the main stem Lamprey River, relief pulses are being scrutinized and tweaked to ensure pulses reach the lower reaches. In summer, the current 48-hour pulse often is lost to evaporation as water flows over hot rocks.
- The USGS gage in Newmarket has 30+ years of data. The Raymond gage has about 15 years' worth of data. Three years' worth of data from the tributaries should be sufficient to make correlations with the USGS gages.

approval of minutes from September 19, 2023:

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

financial report:

The bank account statement and year-to-date expenditures were reviewed with no issues noted. FY 2023 (ending Sept. 30) ended with a surplus. We are currently in year 3 of a 5-year cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

project review:

- Newmarket, 4 Youngs Lane, shoreland. Applicant desires to build a metal storage shed near existing public works building. Comments focused on maintenance of proposed bioretention system.
- **Dick Lord made a motion to allow Grace Levergood to sign off on waiving committee review of Permit By Notifications from NHDES. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

election of new chair:

Jim Brady made a motion to elect Grace Levergood as committee chair through January 2025. David Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

annual report:

Towns are starting to request one-page summaries for inclusion in annual town reports. LRAC's one page report has been prepared and was reviewed by the committee. Committee members agreed by consensus that the report was appropriate for submission. A longer, more detailed version was also shared. Committee members were invited to suggest changes before submission to NPS and NHDES.

management plan update:

Several maps for each town should be updated and included in the new management plan: conservation land, priority lands to protect, and impervious cover. These maps will help guide land protection efforts and project reviews. Per NHDES suggestion, a map of state-owned lands in the watershed should also be generated in case the state decides to dispose of these parcels. Guidance for crafting a RFP will be solicited and shared with the committee. After review and approval, the RFP will be shared with regional planning commissions. Maps generated should be accessible on-line and easily updated.

Sliding Rock grant, Newmarket:

All terms of the grant have been completed and the final invoice submitted. The original proposal included fencing off an eroded area to allow recovery, but this was found to be impractical. A new kayak rack was installed to hold private boats. Signage was added to disallow storage of boats on the shore and a request for boat owners to carry, not drag their boats. Committee members would still like to explore options to improve the shoreline if possible.

other:

Newmarket's Moonlight Brook issues: The LRAC has requested signage at Schanda Park to warn visitors that the water entering the park via Moonlight Brook is often heavily contaminated by human fecal bacteria. After a discussion, it was agreed that the LRAC should cease advocating for this signage. In keeping with the committee's advisory role, we should be advising NHDES to use the data to act.

adjournment:

Jim Brady made a motion to adjourn. Grace Levergood seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.