



Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED APRIL 16, 2024

representatives attending in person: Dick Lord (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Jim Brady (Lee); Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: John Wallace (Barrington, due to illness), Jerry Martin (Newmarket, out of town)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Peter Wawrzonek

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve provisionally the amended bylaws until a final vote on March 19. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion was approved unanimously including roll call votes by members participating by phone.

approval of minutes from January 16, 2024

Jim Brady made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Therese Thompson seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 1 abstention, including roll call vote by a participant by phone.

financial report:

Tax prep and submission invoice was paid. All other monthly activity was normal.

Lee Public Canoe access repairs:

Lee DPW has agreed to accept and hold the granite until it can be installed. The contractor has been contacted several times to arrange delivery. This will cost \$300.

Project review:

- We received a letter from NHDES that the Town of Newmarket has applied for funding to replace water pipes that contain lead from several locations in town. The LRAC is in support of such projects and the funding that is needed. A draft letter to NHDES was shared and approved by consensus.
- Raymond, Onyx warehouse, AoT resubmission:
The applicant submitted 50+ pages of revised engineering plans. Major comments note the complexity of stormwater management and the need for full-time, on-site review by a

qualified engineer. Several features were missing, such as the location of blasting and retaining walls. Treatment of thermal pollution from stormwater off of extensive roofs was lacking. Water quality issues remain a concern.

Approval of community grant for Willey House Park in Newmarket:

The Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism Commission seeks \$7500 to supplement other grants already awarded to create a small park on Main Street that will serve as a place to gather and learn about history and natural resources in Newmarket “by the river’s edge.” The park will feature a permanent mural, sculpture, and rotating environmental educational materials. Extensive community engagement is proposed. The grants vetting group recommended approval. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$7500.00 as a community grant to the Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism for the Willey House Central Park. Jim Brady seconded.** Discussion ensued. One member was not in support of the grant at this time and provided reasons why. The committee is still open to considering the grant, but would like to ask the applicant some clarifying questions before an official vote. **Dick Lord made a motion to rescind the previous motion. Jim Brady seconded.** The NACTC chair will be invited to attend the March 19 meeting and vote will be taken at that time.

management plan update:

SRPC sent the draft agreement this afternoon. It contained a schedule with a start date of March 1, 2024 and an end date of September 30, 2024.

NHDES mapping tool, designated river corridors:

Therese Thompson noted that the Raymond Planning Board and Conservation Commission were unfamiliar with this tool and that all towns should be aware of the tool and how to use it. Her main concern is that towns might not know when NHDES and, by extension, river advisory committees, need to be involved with projects within a quarter mile of the rivers. She gave a demonstration on how to access the tool.

<https://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d3869f998e614d81925481ac71c3903e>

proposed amendments to bylaws:

Jim MacCartney went through the bylaws and noted changes that are being proposed. A few minor changes to the draft were requested by committee members. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve provisionally the amended bylaws until a final vote on March 19. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion was approved unanimously including roll call votes by members participating by phone.**

other:

- Wadleigh Falls kiosk grant: Good progress is being made.
- FYI: Great Bay 2030 outreach: Workshop on Jan. 31 brainstormed ideas for improving outreach about environmental issues by engaging with experts in social sciences, art, business, and marketing. We cannot improve Great Bay by simply throwing more science at people. Great Bay Changemaker Bootcamp will continue focusing on the Cocheco River as it did last year but will also work with the LRAC in 2024. This should be a great recruitment tool for both LACs.
- FYI: from Tracie Sales re: disposal of state lands: State law(RSA 483, Section 14 requires the state to first offer a property to the local municipality. If the municipality chooses not to purchase it, the only remaining requirements are for properties proposed

for disposal located near rivers or lakes to be reviewed by the RMAC, LMAC, LACs and the Public Waters Access Advisory Board (PWAAB). So, the opportunity for land trusts or similar conservation organizations to become aware of a sale are going to be through the town or one of these advisory committees. I am not sure that the state could legally notify organizations without going through a public bidding process. However, all state property disposals (not just sales, but also leases and easements) are reviewed by the Long-Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee and many by the Council on Resources and Development as well (CORD first, then Long-Range). So, land trusts could watch the agendas for those organizations.

- FYI: The Town of Durham has applied for a wetlands permit to remove the Mill Pond Dam on the Oyster River.
- Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Patrick Reynolds would like the LRAC to consider sponsoring a table at these local events and attending the films to network and learn new strategies. The committee members were supportive of this, but sponsorship might be late this year. SELT and the NH Rivers Council are both holding events as fundraisers soon. Patrick will attend and report back to the committee. By consensus, the group agreed to reimburse Patrick for his attendance.
- Epping fuel farm fire: Have there been any updates about potential contamination in the Lamprey River? We will look into that for the March meeting.

Next LRAC meeting March 19, 2024.