



Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MAY 21, 2024

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Jim Brady, Dennis Regan (Lee); Ben Buckley, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Jerry Martin (Newmarket, out of town)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Debra Smith, Newmarket Arts, Culture, & Tourism Commission

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$4500.00 for community engagement and printing costs associated with the Willey House Central Park community grant. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.**
- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the FY2025 budget as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.**
- **John Wallace made a motion to approve the amended bylaws as first presented on February 20, 2024. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to renew, with amendments, the memorandum of agreement between LRAC and SELT. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by participant on the phone.**

approval of community grant for Willey House Park in Newmarket:

Debra Smith presented updates on the project and asked for approval of a revised grant application that is not dependent on a finalized easement on the parcel. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$4500.00 for community engagement and printing costs associated with the Willey House Central Park community grant. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.**

approval of minutes from February 20, 2024

Dennis Regan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously, including roll call vote by a participant by phone.

financial report:

All monthly activity was normal.

Approval of FY2025 budget:

Jim MacCartney shared an update finalized just today for the FY2025 operating budget from the National Park Service. A preliminary budget was shared in March when there was no quorum. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the FY2025 budget as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.**

Lee Public Canoe access repairs:

The contractor has the granite and will deliver it to Lee DPW. He has committed to completing work in late August.

final approval of amended bylaws:

John Wallace made a motion to approve the amended bylaws as first presented on February 20, 2024. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by phone participant.

Renewal of SELT memorandum of agreement:

Two amendments were requested:

- Increase hourly wage for SELT land protection specialist.
- Include language requiring submission of invoices for SELT to access funds.

Dick Lord made a motion to renew, with amendments, the memorandum of agreement between LRAC and SELT. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion passed unanimously including roll call vote by participant on the phone.

grant vetting process:

The current process is for the grants vetting group to scrutinize grant applications and, if it seems to be a good fit, get it as polished as possible before it goes to the full committee with a recommendation to approve. The application is then reviewed by the full committee and a vote is taken.

It was felt that this process could be improved with the addition of applicants' pitching the proposal to the full committee prior to a vote. Applicants can be asked to step outside during the vote if any LRAC member makes that request.

emerging wildlife issue:

Dave Steinberg has recently come across 10 of 13 American toads heavily infected with a nasty red rash or blisters on their skin. Preliminary analysis points to a protozoan/fungal skin infection. For the time being, the issue seems to be focused in Durham between the Wiswall Dam and Bennett Road. American toads do not live in or near wetlands, but they do use them during breeding season. This disease, therefore, has the potential to infect all amphibians. For now, people seeing these toads are advised to photograph them using a GPS-enabled camera and not to touch them.

Charles River water quality:

Patrick Reynolds reported that he saw QR codes at access points along the Charles River that link to near real-time site-specific water quality data. The group discussed the possibility of bringing a similar system into play along the Lamprey River. Such a system would be expensive, time-consuming, and could pose some liability issues if data are not correct or current. It was noted that the primary concern of people recreating in or on the river is mostly regarding bacterial contamination, which by its nature cannot be up-to-date. It was also noted that NHDES does not regularly test water that is not identified as a public beach. Imitating the Charles River system along the Lamprey River is not feasible as a LRAC project, but the LRAC can offer the public a general warning on the website that, based on water quality in New Hampshire and globally, it is advisable to stay off the water for approximately 48 hours following a heavy rain so that bacteria levels can return to safe levels.

project review:

- Deerfield, Residences at Freese's Pond, AoT
- Epping, Sig Sauer 300m Indoor Range, wetlands
- Epping, Sig Sauer, 300m Indoor Range, AoT
- Epping, Sig Sauer, Parking Lot Expansion, AoT
- Newmarket, 12 Smith Garrison Rd., wetlands
- Newmarket, herbicide application on Piscassic Greenway
- Nottingham, Pawtuckaway Ridge, AoT
- Nottingham, Rte. 152 bridge replacement, wetlands
- Raymond, Gemini Valve, AoT
- Raymond, Gemini Valve, shoreland

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.