



Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JULY 16, 2024

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

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Duane Hyde (SELT)

summary of motions passed:

Dick Lord made a motion to commit up to \$100,000 from the land protection fund for the Mitchell project in Newmarket and Epping, with a commitment end date of December 31, 2025. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting began at 7:10.

approval of minutes from May 21, 2024:

Grace Levergood noted an error: work is projected to begin at the Lee Public Canoe Access in August, not July. Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dennis Regan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

financial reports:

Bank statement, year-to-date budget, and land protection fund reports had ordinary activity and no concerns were noted.

land protection project presentation, Duane Hyde (SELT)

The 132-acre Mitchell property, located mostly in Newmarket with a small section in Epping, has long been on the radar as an important parcel to put into conservation. In the past 2 years, more active conversations and steps have been taken. The Mitchell siblings are willing to sell the property outright and SELT has pulled together a range of funding partners. Expected close date is before Dec. 31, 2025.

The property ranks high on LRAC's list of land protection priorities:

- significant acreage at 132 acres

- high ranking on conservation plans for NH Coastal Watershed, NH Wildlife Action Plan, and town master plan
- proximity to other conserved properties
- presence within a large, unfragmented block of undeveloped land
- significant scenic value, water supply protection, and wildlife habitat
- current use as productive forest and hayfields
- location within the quarter-mile corridor of the mainstem Lamprey River

Overall project expenses are \$2,293,594. Largest funder and co-manager is NHFGD at \$1,384,373. LRAC is being asked to commit \$100,000.

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management plan maps

SRPC provided 18 static maps with various data layers. Each was reviewed as a group and comments were compiled. These will be sent to SRPC to be integrated as revisions set one.

other:

- At a recent knotweed and climate change webinar, research funded by LRAC and conducted by LRAC member Lauren Kaehler was highlighted showing that increased river erosion in sites where knotweed is prevalent should be expected with more extreme weather events driven by climate change.
- A guided paddle in Newmarket is tentatively scheduled for July 9. LRAC members were invited to participate.
- A summer intern working for NPS Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers has asked for input about climate change. Volunteers from LRAC were invited to participate.
- A rep noted that LRAC project review comment letters sometimes have taken issue with homeowner associations' being left to manage complicated stormwater systems in some recent development projects. The group discussed issues often related to homeowner associations and the lack of maintenance as required in AoT or other development permits issued by NHDES. Enforcement of these requirements is a problem without an easy answer.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Jim Brady seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.