



## Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JUNE 18, 2024

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Ben Buckley, Jerry Martin, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Joe Schmidl (NHDES), Mimi Winder (Lee Conservation Commission), Ellen Snyder (Newmarket Conservation Commission), Sara Callaghan (Durham conservation land manager), David Needle (UNH)

summary of motions passed:

- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$7500.00 for a community grant for poison ivy removal at the Lee Public Canoe Access. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$5600.00 for a community grant for improvements to the Old Lee Class A Trail in Newmarket. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the Wiggin Farm bridge replacement community grant for up to \$7500.00 contingent on receiving a Permit By Notification from NHDES. John Wallace seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**
- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve a community grant for up to \$4260.00 for an update to the Doe Farm management plan. Lauren Kaehler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Ben Buckley made a motion to approve up to \$19,998.92 for a research grant to study the novel protist pathogen that is afflicting American toads in the Lamprey River watershed. Grace Levergood seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting began at 6:50.

tributary instream flow management grant wrap-up presentation, Joe Schmidl

- All five gaging stations are collecting data and are available on-line.

- For some reason, the Piscassic River gage is frequently fouled and needs regular maintenance.
- The preliminary data from the North Branch Lamprey River station (02M-NBR) and Pawtuckaway River station (04-PAR) have the sort of unique data trends that suggest that they will be retained as index stations.
- Conversely, the preliminary data from the North River (03-NOR/USGS-01073460), Little River (01A-LTR) and Piscassic River (03-PIS) show similarities that suggest there may be statistical relationships between them that would allow for future index station consolidation. The ISF Program therefore recommends maintaining these 3 stations for 2 more years to gather sufficient data to determine if a statistical relationship exists between flows at these stations, as well as the 2 USGS gages on the Lamprey River, that can be used to estimate flows at these stations.

Community grant proposal presentations and votes:

Lee Canoe Access poison ivy control:

The Lee Conservation Commission is requesting \$7500.00 to hire a professional to pull poison ivy that occurs throughout the site. The poison ivy hinders efforts to remove invasive glossy buckthorn and makes the site less welcoming to paddlers, fishermen, and swimmers. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$7500.00 for a community grant for poison ivy removal at the Lee Public Canoe Access. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Old Lee Class A Trail Improvements:

Portions of the Neal Mill Road and Old Lee Road, now reclassified as Class A Trails, are in need of improvements to reduce erosion, improve recreational access, improve water quality, and improve safety. The trails experience a lot of foot traffic and provide access to the Piscassic Greenway. The Newmarket Conservation Commission is requesting \$5600.00 to fix major drainage problems by adding two armored rock dips to the trail, adding gravel and recrowning the trail, adding safety bumpers and a second railing to the bridge, and adding a small interpretive sign at the bridge. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve up to \$5600.00 for a community grant for improvements to the Old Lee Class A Trail in Newmarket. Dave Steinberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Wiggin Farm boardwalk/bridge replacement:

The trail to Wiggin Farm Conservation Area begins by crossing a boardwalk and bridge over a wetland. The bridge is in a state of deterioration and needs to be replaced. Replacement will provide the walking public with a safer structure and will help to protect the wetland. The Newmarket Conservation Commission is requesting \$7500.00 to cover costs for material and labor for a new bridge and related boardwalk. The committee had concerns about the type of wetland permit that might be needed for the project. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the Wiggin Farm bridge replacement community grant for up to \$7500.00 contingent on receiving a Permit By Notification from NHDES. John Wallace seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**

Doe Farm Management Plan Update:

Doe Farm conservation area has a management plan that was last updated in 2015. An update is needed to accommodate changing conditions on the site and stewardship practices. The Durham Trustees of the Trust Fund are requesting \$4260.00 to complement other funding sources to update the management plan. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve a community grant for up to \$4260.00 for an update to the Doe Farm management plan. Lauren Kaehler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

research grant proposal for novel toad pathogen characterization

A number of American toads in Durham were found in April that had serious skin lesions. Preliminary tests showed that the pathogen was a novel protist and the disease had not been characterized before in scientific literature. The pathogen has the potential to infect other amphibians and, in fact, a newt was found in Newmarket that seemed to have the same symptoms as encountered in the American toads. Two researchers at UNH (a herpetologist and a veterinary diagnostician) have requested emergency funding to perform studies that are needed to characterize the pathogen and make an initial determination about how prevalent this pathogen might be in the Lamprey River watershed. Once initial studies are complete, the data obtained will be used to apply for significant Morris Animal Foundation and National Science Foundation grants. **Ben Buckley made a motion to approve up to \$19,998.92 for a research grant to study the novel protist pathogen that is afflicting American toads in the Lamprey River watershed. Grace Levergood seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from April 16, 2024

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

Operating budget year-to-date, bank statement, and land protection fund statement were reviewed. No issues were noted.

Lee Public Canoe Access repairs:

The current plan is that Grace Levergood will confer with the contractor and potentially begin work in ~~July~~ August.

project review:

- Epping, 121 Calef Highway, quick oil change facility, presentation by Barry Gier from Jones & Beach. Committee had no concerns. Chair will contact NHDES stating same.
- Nottingham, Residences at Fort Hill, AoT
- Nottingham, Route 152 bridge replacement, shoreland
- Lee, Route 125 bridge replacement, wetlands
- Raymond, Route 27 culvert replacement, roadway repair

adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Everyone else seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:23.