

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2024 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JANUARY 21, 2025

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

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

summary of motions passed:

**Dick Lord made a motion to commit up to \$23,000 for SELT's Silverman-Schneer acquisition contingent on SELT's also securing \$45,000 from other funders. This commitment is valid until November 1, 2025. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from October 15, 2024:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment to add the following language to the project review section: "Members reviewed draft letters to NHDES and towns for the following projects." John Wallace 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.
- FY2024 ended on Sept. 30 and FY2025 has begun. The new fiscal year end-date is now April 30 2026.

Willey House and Community Outreach Grant presentation:

Ben Buckley showed slides of the process, public comments, and final art projects including a beautiful new mural, Interweave© mini-loom, and mini art gallery.

request for land protection funding from SELT, Ben Engel:

Two parcels, 15.27 and 5.64 acres, that abut the Piscassic Greenway are currently privately owned but under easement with NH Fish & Game and the Town of Newmarket. Together these parcels comprise the Silverman-Schneer

properties. Both parcels have significant water, wildlife, and recreational resources. Under the current easement structures, future owners could pursue timber management. SELT (and the Town of Newmarket) would like to see these parcels managed under the broader umbrella of Piscassic Greenway management. Donation of the land is not possible.

The full cost of the project is \$74,695, with a \$22,305 request from the LRAC. A request for \$45,000 has been made to the Great Bay 2030 initiative. SELT has already secured \$7,390. The project is expected to close in spring 2025.

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#### management plan update

The original deadline to complete the mapping component has passed. SRPC has proposed two options to finish the job by April 30, 2025. After reviewing both, the committee agreed by consensus to go with Option 2:

#### Option 2 - a faster approach:

*This would require the committee to assign a couple people to review incremental drafts of the online map viewer between LRAC meetings.*

- *December: share a first draft of the online viewer and work through one or two rounds of revisions outside of meetings with appointed individuals.*
- *January LRAC meeting: Have a (near) final online map viewer on the meeting agenda.*
- *January: wrap up any final changes.*

#### grants update:

- Lee Public Canoe access
  - Final weed removal of 2024 occurred in November. Final report and invoice should be submitted soon.
  - Wadleigh Falls history panels are being manufactured.
- Wiggan Farm bridge & boardwalk: The NHDES trails permit was issued. Work will begin in November.
- Lee Public Canoe Access poison ivy: Final pull took place last week.
- Willey House and Old Lee Trail grants have been completed.
- Bacterial tracking for 2024 has been completed. Final report is expected in December.

#### other:

- The LRAC meeting is officially posted and publicized as starting at 7:00. Sometimes meetings start at 6:30 for project review. After much discussion, it was determined that we need additional guidance from NHDES.

- Some interest was voiced about having a virtual meeting with someone from NHDES regarding waste facilities along the river. (Reminder, big municipal waste transfer station has been proposed for Epping on what is now a construction debris transfer station.) We will try to arrange this for early March 2025.
- FYI: Onyx warehouse project update: Raymond Planning Board voted not to approve the permit in early Nov. The application was denied because the applicant demanded (as is their right) for the PB to make a decision, by law and good conscience the PB could not do otherwise. Any aggrieved party has recourse for relief so it would be a little naïve to think that development is not going to happen just because of this decision; appeal and relief timelines are just now beginning.

next meeting: December 17, 2024.

Committee agreed that this meeting will be cancelled unless we receive projects to review.

adjournment:

Jim Brady made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.