

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED FEBRUARY 18, 2025

representatives attending in person: Dick Lord (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Jim Brady (Lee); Ben Buckley (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 \$75,000 for SELT's Robert Rix #2 Conservation Project in Deerfield. This commitment is valid through September 30, 2025. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve \$13,207 for bacterial sampling and tracking at 6 recreational sites along the Lamprey River and 6 sites along Moonlight Brook in 2025. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to send a letter to NHDES indicating LRAC's support for funding the sewer system upgrades proposed by Newmarket. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the project review policy and procedure. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dick Lord made a motion to renew and update the committee coordinator's contract for 2025. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Jim Brady made a motion to send \$150 to the NH Rivers Council as a River Partner sponsor for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Dan Davis seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

approval of minutes from November 19, 2024:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention.

financial reports:

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

request for land protection funding from SELT, Lori Sommer:

Robert Rix, Jr. has agreed to donate 99 acres of land along the Lamprey River in Deerfield. This is addition to 85 acres already placed under conservation by the Rix family. The property has 18.1 acres of wetlands and the rest is mostly forest in good condition. The parcel meets most criteria for LRAC First Priority Land Protection Projects. SELT is requesting \$75,000 for project management and stewardship costs. **Dick Lord made a motion to commit up to \$75,000 for SELT's Robert Rix #2 Conservation Project in Deerfield. This commitment is valid through September 30, 2025. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

bacterial tracking 2024 summary, request for 2025, Steve Jones

Dr. Jones showed slides showing levels of fecal bacterial contamination at 6 recreational areas along the Lamprey River and at 6 sites along Moonlight Brook in Newmarket. In addition, DNA technology was utilized to determine the sources of bacteria in all samples (human, dog, cow, horse, bird, gull, Canada goose, mammal). Moonlight Brook continues to see high levels of human fecal contamination. Samples were taken monthly from April through November. Carroll Beach in Raymond had one extreme reading in May, with dog and bird sources detected.

It was noted that several sewer upgrade projects will occur in Newmarket in the coming year(s). These will target known weaknesses in the sewer system and will include manhole improvements, lining of pipes near access points, and some ground-disturbing work that will replace pipes in a private neighborhood.

Two proposals were suggested, one that would repeat the sampling regimen from 2024 and would cost \$13,207 and one that would sample only the recreational sites for \$9,922. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve \$13,207 for bacterial sampling and tracking at 6 recreational sites along the Lamprey River and 6 sites along Moonlight Brook in 2025. Dan Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

project review:

- We received a request from NHDES to comment on a funding application from the Town of Newmarket to upgrade parts of the sewer system using mostly low-impact methods. We submitted a letter of support last year addressed to the applicant, but NHDES would like a letter addressed to NHDES. The LRAC supports this grant, with a note that for any work requiring dewatering near the Piscassic River, the water cannot be discharged into the river, but must be discharged onto land with proper erosion control measures. **Dick Lord made a motion to send a letter to NHDES indicating LRAC's support for funding the sewer system upgrades proposed by Newmarket. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- At the November meeting concern was noted that project reviews might not be following proper protocols. NHDES was consulted for guidance on meeting legal

requirements while allowing reviews to take place in a workable manner. A draft policy was shared and discussed. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the project review policy and procedure. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** (See attachment A at end.)

renewal of coordinator contract:

The coordinator left the room while the committee discussed.

Dick Lord made a motion to renew and update the committee coordinator's contract for 2025. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

grants update:

- Lee Canoe Access poison ivy pull project has been finalized.
- Wadleigh Falls history signs are complete; frame and panels will be installed this spring.
- Wiggin Farm trail improvement work in Newmarket will be delayed until spring. The permit-by-notification took longer than expected.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival:

Last year it was suggested that the LRAC provide funding to this program by means of a sponsorship. The local beneficiary is the NH Rivers Council.

Sponsorship details were shared and discussed. **Jim Brady made a motion to send \$150 to the NH Rivers Council as a River Partner sponsor for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Dan Davis seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

on-line mapping:

The link to the map set was shared prior to the meeting and all members were asked to experiment with the maps. Some features are great, but several concerns were noted about the map legends and having to re-zoom if the layer is changed.

next meeting: February 18, 2025

adjournment:

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

Attachment A Project Review Policy and Procedure

Approved January 21, 2025

Receipt of new permit application and preliminary review:

When the LRAC receives or is notified by NHDES of a new permit application, the chair or coordinator will contact the applicant to request an electronic version that all representatives can access. Intensive review can be performed by any active LRAC representative or staff person. Preliminary comments shall be forwarded to the chair or coordinator.

Official review of the application:

Draft comment letters shall be shared in advance of the full meeting, if possible. The project review sub-group may meet in a special session before the regular monthly meeting to fine-tune the letter. This session does not need to be open to the public or require public notification.

At the full meeting, the purpose of and comments for each permit application shall be summarized. Final amendments can be suggested and discussed. A quorum of committee representatives shall vote to approve each draft letter individually or as a set. The results of the vote(s) shall be recorded as part of the official meeting minutes.

Submission of the letter to NHDES:

In the event that a vote by the full committee is not possible within the deadlines imposed by NHDES for each permit type, draft comments may be submitted to NHDES noting that the letter is "subject to final approval by the LRAC." At the first opportunity, the letter will be discussed and put to a vote by a quorum of the full committee. If the vote is to approve as presented, NHDES will be informed of that decision. If amendments are made, a new letter will be submitted with changes clearly marked.

Each review letter shall be signed by the committee chair or vice chair. Copies of each letter will be sent to the conservation commission and planning board of the municipality where the project is proposed, as well as to the applicant or the applicant's agent.