Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 20, 2019
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED OCTOBER 15, 2019

members present: John Wallace (Barrington), Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord, Ric Raymond (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Kitty Miller, Jason Settineri (Lee), Cris Blackstone (Newmarket), Therese Thompson (Nottingham), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

guest: Jen Drociak, NHDES

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Summary of Motions Passed:

Joe Foley made a motion that LRAC contact The Loft management to indicate its desire to establish a one-year membership beginning in November; that LRAC terminate the agreement with the owner of the current office, and that LRAC find a suitable commercial storage unit for its bulky items. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Motion passed with 7 yes votes and 4 abstentions.

approval of minutes from July 16, 2019:

Al Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Minutes were passed unanimously with one abstention.

financial report:

- Checking account activity, year-to-date budget vs. actuals, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.
- Carolyn Matthews made a recommendation that the FY2020 budget be reviewed line-by-line in October to familiarize committee members with specifics.
- It was noted that memorial donations in memory of Frank Graham in the amount of $325 were recently received.

outreach, recreation, history, & wildlife work group update:

See notes attached at end.

project review update:

- Two new projects were reviewed prior to tonight's meeting:
    - Candia: Special notification for spraying for Japanese knotweed control on 2100 square feet of town-owned land along the North

Branch River. Main comment was to keep Town of Raymond informed.
    - Nottingham: Wetland permit application to build a single driveway that includes two culverts through what appears to be scrub-brush habitat to reach two buildable lots on Gerrish Drive. Blanding's and spotted turtles, small whorled pogonia, and black racers potentially on site.
- Addendum to Epping, Fecteau alteration of terrain to remove former railway berm: Recent information shared by the Epping Conservation Commission indicates that the project area contains abundant (invasive) black swallow-wort. The group agreed to submit an addendum to support the ECC's request that all reasonable measures be taken to ensure that all plant fragments be removed from the site and disposed of properly to prevent further spread of the plants.

LRWA update:

- Work is in progress with UNH Cooperative Ext. and NHDES Soak up the Rain to organize a workshop on Landscaping at the Water's Edge for riparian homeowners.
- An intern has been acquired. Work will focus on aerial photography and expanding experiences along the river.
- The fall newsletter will be mailed next week. The data base of recipients has been increased, including 93 riparian landowners from Raymond.
- Cris will attend a regional workshop on PFAS on Sept. 18.
- A partnership between LRWA and occupational and physical therapists is being developed to learn about adaptability equipment and techniques for getting physically challenged people onto the river.
- The LRWA Instagram feed has 277 followers, with about 250 apparently legitimate.
- The big goal at present is to update the website.
- The annual meeting & dinner is scheduled for October 16 in the Lee Grange Hall.

town updates:

- Nottingham: The master plan committee has been dissolved. A professional planner has been hired to lead the update effort.
- Candia: Old Home day is September 24.
- Barrington: The co-occurrence mapping project is wrapping up. A presentation will be made to the LRAC in October.
- Raymond:
    - The Oma Can-Canoe triathlon is scheduled for September 14.
    - Roadside signs indicate a new subdivision will be going in. Plans were reviewed some time ago and work can begin.
    - All Hall (Candia) mentioned that he had seen signs advertising a new development in Raymond. Carolyn Matthews said that several

developments approved prior to and during the recession were now going forward in Raymond.

David Carroll video proposal:

The outreach committee met with videographer Bill Rogers regarding use of an interview with David Carroll from 2009. Two videos for You Tube were proposed with additional footage recommended. Total package proposal was up to $3750. The outreach group recommended allowing up to $4000. Since this is under the $5000 workgroup discretionary threshold, the full committee did not need to hold a formal vote. Joe raised the issue that this should be a nonpartisan video.

discussion regarding possibly moving the office to The Loft in Newmarket:

- Cris Blackstone, chair of the LRAC subcommittee office alternatives, led a discussion …."
- Three office sub-committee members (Cris Blackstone, Mary Ann Krebs, and the outreach specialist) visited the space on August 1, 2019 keeping LRAC's needs in mind. Three office subcommittee members were unable to attend the tour (Therese Thompson, Carolyn Matthews who was out of town but had already seen The Loft and sent positive comments; and Jerry Martin who also sent positive comments).

- $300/month grants the lessee use of a small private office space, mixed-use open public space, a kitchenette, bathrooms, free parking, and small conference room for private meetings. Space is mostly handicap accessible. One year lease/membership required. Required one year's payment in advance might be negotiable. The office will be available in November.
- Positive aspects include trendy atmosphere, possibility of small sign for publicity, very reasonable rate for local real estate, and potential for expanding outreach offerings.
- Several shortcomings were noted: Because the office area is small, it will not accommodate LRAC bulky items; LRAC will need to rent a storage space for those items. Conference room is very small and windowless; special arrangements might need to be made to accommodate larger meetings. Keyless entry will require contacting the property manager for access after-hours.
- This is not a joint rental with LRWA.
- Joe Foley asked if there was any support for continuing to use the present office in Durham. There was none. Nobody had any memory or evidence of a formal agreement for use of the Durham space, so leaving would not constitute a breach of agreement or default on a lease. The owners of the current space have been very considerate in renting it to us over the years.

- Cris Blackstone indicated that the office at the Loft might not be held for LRAC if LRAC did not make a decision in the very near future. Failure to act now would probably result in the loss of this opportunity.
- **Joe Foley made a motion that LRAC contact The Loft management to indicate its desire to establish a one-year membership beginning in November, that LRAC terminate the agreement with the owner of the current office, and that LRAC find a suitable commercial storage space for its bulky items. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Motion passed with 7 yes votes and 4 abstentions.**

other:

- The FY2020 year will begin October 1. This is the last year of the five-year cooperative agreement, so we face an added incentive to complete projects. Please review the management plan and propose projects. Digitizing old reports in the office should be undertaken.
- At last month's meeting, interest in an upper-watershed recreation map was renewed. Walking trails and some blue trails are being mapped as part of a state-wide Trail Finder website, but we also need to know about local picnic and historic sites along the rivers as well as safe roads for cycling. Each of the upper towns will be asked to submit a list of publically accessible river recreation sites for inclusion in the LRAC map that the outreach/rec/history/wildlife group will create.
- A suggestion was made to add a progress report on the Loft space usage to the May 2020 agenda.

adjournment:

Al Hall made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

ATTACHMENTS:

Outreach, Rec, History, & Wildlife Meeting Notes
August 7, 2019

members present: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord, Kitty Miller, Suzanne Petersen, Therese Thompson

Cris Blackstone and Carolyn Matthews were out of town and unable to aid the discussion.

David Carroll video with Bill Rogers:

Bill was invited to attend to discuss possibilities for using footage of David Carroll from 2009 for one or two new videos. The footage is in a format he can utilize. Upon reviewing the content, he believes we have enough good material to make two videos:

- One video would be geared to land conservation professionals and supporters with a focus on balancing the needs of people to enjoy nature and the needs of nature to have little or no interaction with people. Most of the material needed is contained within the existing footage.

- The second video would be geared to the general public and would focus on David Carroll as a creative, passionate force who has translated youthful joy of nature into an enduring message to engage others to protect nature. Additional material such as examples of David's art and drone footage of the river would greatly enhance existing footage.

The videos would be placed on You Tube with 3 or 4 hard-copy DVDs that we can have as back-up and use for outreach. The estimated cost to do the two videos using existing footage is $3000. Drone footage would potentially add another $700.

After Bill left, **the group voted unanimously to bring this two-video proposal to the full committee and recommend supporting the project up to $4000, with funding coming from the community grants budget as a workgroup-initiated project**.

upper watershed recreation map with Emma Tutein:

One of the goals of the management plan is to create a rec map similar to the W&S rec map for the upper watershed. Initials efforts to this end were attempted 2 or 3 years ago, but the project fell through the cracks. Emma has been working with partners to create a trail finder website for the NH seacoast. The focus of the work is public walking trails on town-owned land or conservation land on which owners allow public use. A secondary focus is on blue trails, denoting public canoe access points and river-side amenities.

In addition to public walking trails and canoe access points, the group would like to include cyclist-friendly road tours and local river-based historical sites. The LRAC map would be available on-line, but hard copies would also be available.

The NH Trail Finder website is still in progress and no major publicity has been pursued. The final website should be ready within a year and will be similar to https://www.mainetrailfinder.com/. LRAC's website is probably not going to be able to handle hosting the large amount of data involved, so a link to the bigger Trail Finder website would be desirable.

Next steps:

- LRAC will ask upper watershed towns to provide information about riverside trails and amenities so we can build a list of sites and related content to be included on the map. UNH Cooperative Extension is already working with towns and SELT to upload walking trails.
- Suzanne will confer with Seven Rivers and Rivers for Change for critical on-the-water details.
- Emma will look into the feasibility of having Trail Finder search by region, such as the LR watershed. She estimates that showcasing the LR area might require $200-$500.

Tilton Conservation Area update:

Two bridges have been built on the floodplain trail and one remains to be built. We are waiting for receipts for materials and wetlands permit fee. Once that is done, we can finalize the budget and determine how much Epping owes the LRAC for signage. The Epping CC was requested to host a public walk along the trail before turning in the final report.

Preston and Jim have been contacted by the ECC to begin planning for the canoe access restructuring. A community grant to support the effort will be sought for next summer in all likelihood.

Thompson Forest kiosk:

Dick and Ellen will be on site next week to take photos. Dick shared some nice photos from his recent walk there. The problem of walkers not turning around at the vista point and creating a new trail along the river does not seem to have been addressed with any new signs.

Splash and Dash update:

Newmarket is trying hard to turn a profit, but participation is still low. The Exeter Chamber of Commerce would like to partner with Newmarket next year.

new office:

Cris, Mary Ann, and Suzanne visited The Loft in downtown Newmarket. For $300/month, we would have a small, private office space and use of communal meeting/work areas, a small private conference room, free off-street parking, and a kitchenette. The office is on the first floor, just off one of the larger meeting areas. To get supplies in and out, we would need to move bulky furniture over hardwood floors. The space is located just off and below Main Street, with no obvious visibility for through traffic or pedestrians. Signage at the street focuses on The Loft, not its tenants. The space will be available in November.

A suggestion was made to consider renting a storage unit, as the office is basically too small for anything other than storage and nobody actually works at the office. The group members agreed by consensus that meeting at the Safety Complex was fine. Rates for a 10 x 10 space at two local storage facilities ranged from $95 to $120 per month.

The group recommended further investigation and having more LRAC reps visit alternatives.

water quality meters:

Dick purchased two inexpensive hand-held meters that indicate pH, turbidity, specific conductance, and temperature. We have no idea how accurate they are, so LRWA water testers will be asked to try them against the VRAP-sanctioned equipment.

tidal eco-paddle August 17:

Experts on oyster restoration, eelgrass mapping, and water quality and legal issues have been recruited. Suzanne will cover anadromous fish and dam issues. Publicity has gone out through town e-news and Nature Groupie. Seven Rivers will provide safety, paddling instruction, and rentals for those who need a boat.

community grant funding status:

The FY 2019 budgeted $19,000 and the FY 2020 budget has $15,000. If we subtract pending commitments and a likely grant for the canoe access at Tilton for next summer, we have $10,300 available. If we subtract $4000 for the David Carroll videos, we'll have about $6,300.

antique fishing gear:

No update was available.

microplastic pollution:

Kitty noted that microplastics are a growing concern. The Coastal Research Volunteers have protocols and equipment that they use on NH beaches. Suzanne will see if they can do some quick baseline samples along the river.

Project Review Meeting Notes August 1, 2019

members present: Joe Foley, Al Hall, Suzanne Petersen, Therese Thompson

Epping, Fecteau grading along Route 125, AoT and shoreland:

1. The proponent desires to remove material from the old rail bed located in front of the property to improve visibility along Route 125. Total disturbance is 77,100 square feet.

2. The Natural Heritage Bureau report indicates that the NH State Endangered Georgia bulrush is present near the site. Based on the reported location of the plant and location of the proposed work, we do not anticipate negative impacts on the plant from this project.

3. We note that trees within the protected shoreland on the project site were cut several months ago. The location of these trees is across from a busy street that parallels the Lamprey River.

4. No dates for anticipated work were provided. We recommend that all work take place when potential run-off from the site will be minimal and soil-stabilizing plants will have time to become established. Our main concern is to protect the river from contaminated run-off.

Epping, wastewater treatment plant upgrades:

The town proposes to replace a lagoon membrane and perform an upgrade to the pump station. No additional site disturbances are anticipated. The group had no issues. Joe will email Tracie and the engineer.

Epping, extending town water along Jenness Road:

Private wells in this area have been contaminated by MTBE. The town and state will work together on this project. We encourage homeowners to cap their existing wells to prevent cross-contamination. Joe will email Tracie and the engineer.