

York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
May 24, 2016, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Thom Kearns, Beth Walter, Joan LeBlanc, Jean Demetracopoulos, Karen Arsenault, Cindy Donnell, Bryce Waldrop, and Jack Murphy

Voting Members Absent: Steve Pelletier, Stefan Claesson, Judy Spiller

Other Committee Members Present: Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney, and Paul Dest

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chuck Ott, Chair

1. Opening Comments: Thom asked if the Committee needed to follow up on comments Ron Nowell made at the last meeting regarding the potential dumpyard on the bank of Fall Mill Farm. It was noted that no follow up is needed; the issue has been taken up by the Town.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the April 26 meeting were distributed. Karen made a motion, seconded by Cindy, to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report: Paul noted that Jamie notified him that \$10,000 will be added to the Cooperative Agreement from Federal FY 16 NPS funds, bringing the total to \$64,000 for the York River Study to date (\$10,000 from Federal FY 15 and \$54,000 from Federal FY 16). Paul and Jamie are working to amend the Cooperative Agreement.
4. June 20 Advisors/Stakeholders Meeting: The Outreach Subcommittee has been working on this important event. Jenn handed out a draft agenda for the meeting. She noted that a flyer with information and an invitation was sent to about 47 people, including the Board of Advisors, the water districts, historical societies, land trusts, chairs of boards of town committees, town managers, State of Maine agency representatives, harbor committee, shellfish committee, Congressional staff members, and others. Suggestions were made to contact other groups, such as the York Art Association and Historic New England. A discussion took place about the format and ensuring there will be enough time for the public to have questions during the 90-minute meeting, with the ideal split being 45 minutes of presentations by Study Committee members and 45 minutes for questions. Flip charts will be available to record comments and questions, and Jean and Bryce agreed to be recorders. Handouts and other information will be made available as well for attendees. There will be a sign-up sheet and nametags and refreshments. Public notices of this meeting will be posted, so there may be other

members of the public, in addition to those invited, who will attend. It was noted that it would be good if the State Agency representatives could attend this meeting. Paul will follow up. The Outreach Subcommittee will continue to refine the agenda and the other logistics for meeting.

In addition to the June 20 meeting, it was noted that attendance by York River Study Committee members at other community events would be helpful in the public education process. At some point, we will need to develop signage/literature for public presentations and attendance at public events and gatherings.

5. Subcommittee Reports:

5.a ORV: This subcommittee met on May 23 to discuss studies. Jenn noted that Paul and Tin Smith from the Wells Reserve presented various options for studies – buffer analysis, fish habitat study, fringing salt marsh inventory, invasive species monitoring, phytoplankton study, a diadromous fish survey, and others. It was recommended that rather than replicate the comprehensive fish study of the early 2000s, the focus should be on filling gaps and augmenting existing information. The diadromous fish survey would be one study that would be helpful and would add to the body of knowledge of the river.

Jenn handed out a map and one-pager developed by Stefan that reveals the historic resources in the York River Watershed – the number of historic buildings/properties, historic dams, homes/buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, archaeological sites. It is a very good indication of how rich the watershed is in historic resources. Some aspect, or aspects, of historic resources will most likely be part of a study or studies. This is to be examined further by the ORV Subcommittee.

Beth noted that she is going to do some water quality sampling along various points of the river this spring. She realizes this is not a comprehensive survey, but one that will provide a snapshot of water quality.

5.b Outreach: This subcommittee has been busy with the June 20 event and will continue to be. Jenn noted that the web site (www.yorkrivermaine.org) is up and running and will be ready for a public launch soon. Phyllis Ford has been a huge help in getting the web site established, and has provided Jenn with training. More pages are to be added soon. Jenn urged committee members to have a look at the web site and send her comments. The web site will be “live” before the June 20 meeting. In addition to the meeting and the web site, the subcommittee has been exploring the production of a video that captures personal connections to the river.

6. Summer Schedule: Jenn reminded the Committee that her contract calls for limited time during the summer months and that the Committee should plan for this. She noted that she envisions working, on average over the course of July and August, 4 to 8 hours per week.
7. Other item(s): The Google Drive demonstration has been postponed to a future meeting. Stefan will give the demonstration
8. Conclusion: Committee members spent 15 minutes at the end of the meeting in an Open Forum, bringing up and discussing various topics and issues.

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grant House.

Minutes submitted by Paul Dest