

York River Study Committee

York River Study Committee Meeting Minutes

From Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Grant House, 200 US Route 1, York, Maine

1. Voting members present: Chair Chuck Ott, Cindy Donnell, Jack Murphy, Thom Kearns, Jean Demetracopoulos, Stefan Claesson, Karen Arsenault, Judy Spiller, & Beth Walter

Voting Members Absent: Joan Leblanc

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

Visitors: Film-maker Tom Jackson. From York High School – Mike Masi (science teacher) and students Andrew Rodrigues, Luke Wright, Charlie Leroux, Tayla Bando, Wyatt Mozingo

Chair Chuck Ott called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He welcomed Mike Masi and the five students from York High School.

2. The meeting began with Paul, Stefan, and Jennifer providing an overview of the studies that will occur this spring on the York River, noting ways in which students can become involved. There is some potential for some good field work (and even database work) in the areas of the historical survey, the fisheries survey, and habitat restoration monitoring. The Committee members and teacher Mike Masi will follow up in December and develop a plan for involvement.
3. After correcting the date of the September meeting, the minutes from the October 25th were approved unanimously.
4. Funding Sources Update: Paul did some research on foundation grants that might be appropriate to help with funding for studies. He had an encouraging conversation with Simon Deleka of the NH Charitable Foundation, who encouraged Paul to forward brief information on the historical survey in advance of the February 17, 2017 grant deadline. Jennifer will follow up with the Maine Community Foundation York County representative and Paul will forward to Jennifer deadlines for other grants, such as the Davis Conservation Foundation and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. We will continue to explore other sources of funding.
5. Short Film Preview: Film-maker Tom Jackson showed a 90-second video (draft) of the York River that he produced. The video is meant to be a promotion (PSA) of the York River and the Study. The video included beautiful imagery, brief narration, and several interviews. There are opportunities for longer productions as well that can serve as educational vehicles for the River and the Study. Tom noted that a crucial next step in the video production is fundraising.
6. Follow Up Discussion on Build-Out. This subject will be on the agenda of the next ORV Subcommittee. Jennifer and Stefan provided some preliminary subject areas that will be covered, such as patterns of development, zoning ordinances, effects of sea-level rise, habitat

fragmentation, impervious surfaces, buffers, and others.

7. Watershed Management Plan Format and timeline. Jennifer handed out a draft template of the Management Plan. It will be altered as we get further into the study, but this serves as an excellent guide and includes many of the chapters (subject areas) of the other plans Jennifer has reviewed. The timeline brought up some discussion, as it was noted that in order to present a draft of the plan to the York Planning Board by March 2018 much work will need to be done before the end of 2017. Jim clarified for the Committee the role of the Park Service in developing the Study, which the Park Service will submit to Congress. He noted that the Study will borrow a lot of the information in the Management Plan. The Study will be the Park Service's responsibility to produce.
8. Candidates for Study Committee. Chuck asked Mike Masi if he would be interested in joining the Committee, and he indicated an interest. Mike is an excellent conduit to York High School and has a great interest in the York River watershed.
9. Potential Future Meetings. Jennifer reviewed all of the upcoming meetings in December. She further noted that she would like to get the Board of Advisors involved in a meeting, and she suggested the ORV Subcommittee. She will follow up.
10. Other updates and discussion. Paul and Jim noted that it is most likely a federal budget will not be passed by the end of calendar year 2016. Instead, there will be a "continuing resolution" until March 31, 2017 – which funds federal agencies at FY 16 levels. This means we will not find out about new funds for the Cooperative Agreement between the Wells Reserve and NPS until later than what we would like. Jim mentioned he is well aware of the timing issues that the York River Study Committee faces with some major studies set to begin early spring.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.