

York River Study Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2018, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Cindy Donnell, Mike Masi, Judy Spiller, Joan LeBlanc, Karen Arsenault, Thom Kearns

Voting members absent: Jack Murphy, Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos

Other Committee Members Present: YRSC Coordinator Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney of NPS, and Paul Dest of the Wells Reserve

Other Attendees: Emma Lord of NPS and Jennifer Fox (Eliot) of the Advisory Committee

Members of public in attendance: Mike Dow, Mary Marshall, Mike Modern (all of York)

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

1. Minutes: The minutes of the April 24, 2018 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Objectives and Key Actions: Committee members reviewed the draft of Objectives and Actions of the Stewardship Plan. Jenn noted that there are four goals, 34 objectives, and 160 (estimated) actions in the Plan. Jennifer said she heard from three people regarding this document, which is on the web site and was emailed to numerous people.
3. Public Discussion: Three people from York and one person from Eliot (an Advisory Committee member) attended the meeting. Chuck opened it up for discussion, questions, and comments. Most of the questions and concerns from one individual were related to federal involvement in the management of the river (the "strings" that will be attached with Park Service funding) if designation occurred. Various committee members provided responses, noting that these and other issues were of concern at the start of the Study process but have been answered. The discussion and feedback session ended at 6:30 p.m.
4. SMPDC Report and Build-Out Study: Jennifer noted that SMPDC's draft report has been received and was forwarded to the York Planning Board. She noted that we do not have a complete build-out study, which SMPDC had subcontracted out to Judy Colby George. We have pieces that are very informative but not an entire, comprehensive package that can be referenced and forwarded to others. Jenn noted that it is still valuable information, but it would be much better if we had a stand-alone document that interpreted the data. Jenn is meeting with SMPDC to determine if we can get a better

synthesis of the Build-Out Study.

5. Stewardship Plan Outline: Jenn handed this out and went over the various sections, noting what has been completed and what is outstanding, and the timeline to complete the various sections. Jim noted one of the pieces of information that will be needed – most likely to go in the water resources section – is an inventory of bank stabilization areas along the river. These would mostly be at road crossings/bridges. This information will have to be collected, though we have until later in the process (this fall) to document and include it as part of the Study Report.
6. Stewardship Plan Deadlines and Tasks: The draft of the Plan will be done by June 15. The final draft will be completed by July 18. These deadlines do not include layout and formatting, which will be done at a later date. Cindy and Karen will look through the York River Study Committee's photographs and select the top photos to use in the Plan. Jenn asked for a volunteer to develop a press release to announce the completion of the draft of the plan, but no one volunteered.

Final feedback Section 5 that was distributed last week should be given to Jenn by the end of this week (May 25) and on the goals/objectives/actions by the end of next week (June 1).

7. Meetings: A series of important meetings are upcoming May 24 through all of June, including the York Board of Selectmen Workshop on the Stewardship Plan on June 25.

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Paul Dest