

York River Study Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes - June 26, 2018

Grant House, York

Voting members present: Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Cindy Donnell, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller

Voting members absent: Thom Kearns

Other committee members present: Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney

Other attendees: Emma Lord, NPS; and Paula Sewall, York River Advisory Committee

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the May 22, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

2. Draft York River Stewardship Plan

Committee members discussed feedback received at the York Board of Selectmen meeting on June 25. York Board of Selectmen were extremely favorable toward both the proposed Wild and Scenic River designation and the draft York River Stewardship Plan. York River Board of Selectmen approved a motion to schedule public hearings on August 13 and August 27 regarding placement of York River Wild and Scenic designation and Stewardship Plan on the ballot this fall.

Committee discussed questions raised about administrative structure for implementing the Stewardship Plan once the Study Committee work is complete. Key discussion / decision points:

- Revise language to note that the potential structure in the plan is 'suggested'.
- Make minor adjustments to clarify role of local communities in appointing members, and committee members in keeping local boards up to date about activities.
- Fiscal agent would be determined at a later date – entity must be a logical choice to receive funds from the federal government to advance wild and scenic designation. Needs to be a long-term relationship.
- YR Study Committee would play a role in helping to facilitate transition to new administrative framework.

In regards to finalizing the plan, writers will edit for style and streamlining. Committee will be notified of any major changes with substantive impact. Per discussion, second sentence regarding action on wetlands and vernal pools will be removed from the plan (page 96).

3. Next Steps for Stewardship Plan

Jennifer outlined the following outstanding work needed to complete the Stewardship Plan.

- Write executive summary and acknowledgements. Committee was asked to help ensure list of acknowledgements is complete. Jenn will write an Executive Summary and ask Karen Arsenault, Karen Young and Joan LeBlanc to help with editing.
- Following items still need to be added / adjusted - population table to include latest population data, information about invasive species, bridge / shoreline survey, reference lists will be combined into one list at the end, table of objectives and actions will be completed, and historic resources section will be expanded to cover those mentioned in qualifying ORVs. Mike offered to provide use of a skiff for the bridge / shoreline survey to be conducted by Joan and Jenn.
- Additional work includes adding photos, editing based upon public feedback, general editing / formatting, and accessibility.
- July 20 is the target date for the final draft. Committee agreed to goal of approving final plan at the July 24th meeting.
- Options / cost for printing are being explored. Committee will develop list of copies needed. About 100 needed for National Park Service needs, number of local copies needed to be determined.
- Jim raised the issue of user impacts associated with designation. National Park Service has been focusing on how to develop user capacities for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Jim recommended adding language about user capacities indicating that this issue should be considered for the future and adaptive management should be considered. Committee members noted that this would be consistent with concerns previously raised about overuse and potentially conflicting uses of the river. Committee suggested adding discussion within the threats section of the report and adding associated recommendation(s) within the Community Stewardship section. Recommendation could be to monitor usage over time to determine if management measures should be considered. Language regarding potential river keeper's proposed duties could also be adjusted to include monitoring activity / conflicts.

4. Meetings, events and activities

- July 5 Outreach Meeting - CANCELLED
- July 24 next YR Study Committee meeting
- York BOS Public Hearings – August 13 and August 27. Jenn not available for August 13 but will meet with town in advance to find out about meeting format / needs. All York committee members are encouraged to attend.
- Jack is working with Jenn to schedule Eliot Board of Selectmen meeting.
- Potential events in September were discussed.
 - September 15 – Jenn will give presentation at Atlantic Design / Eldredge

- September 22 – York Marketfest
- September 29 – Eliot Festival

Committee members agreed to assist with outreach at these events. Mike suggested looking into Connors boat safety day which will take place over the summer.

5. Potential agenda items for upcoming meetings

- FY19 Budget
- Adoption of Stewardship Plan
- August – NPS Study Report, Next steps for YR W&S Study – town votes etc.
- Plans for printing / copying

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joan LeBlanc