

York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2019, Grant House, York

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

Voting Members Absent: Jean Demetracopoulos, Thom Kearns, Jack Murphy

Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter, Emma Lord, Jim MacCartney

5:30 meeting called to order by Chuck Ott

- 1. Minutes of the March meeting:** All voted in favor of approving the minutes.
- 2. Quarterly Budget Report:** Paul handed out and discussed the budget report for third quarter of FY19, ending March 31. A balance of about \$500 remains. Paul said the Reserve is providing about \$1,600 from its indirect costs to cover coordination until the next federal award. This will cover about 5 hours per week for coordination priorities, including website, communication and meeting planning/facilitation. Jim thought we should know the status of the \$20,000 amendment request by the end of April. If awarded, funds should be available by July 1, if not sooner.
- 3. Updates from Washington:** Paul noted there were no updates on the bill that Congresswoman Pingree submitted in February. Senator King's office is awaiting the release of the NPS Study Report and we will continue to communicate with him after its release.
- 4. NPS Study Report Status:** Jim indicated Emma finalized portions of the report earlier this month and they have some additional internal review within the region, as well as a policy review conducted by the Washington, DC office, which should take about 30 days. The region will also confirm that the NPS Study Report does not need NEPA review. Following internal NPS review, it will be posted on the public review site (PEPC site) for 90 days.
- 5. York Harbor Ordinance Proposed Amendment/York's May Ballot:** Jenn noted the YRSC's letter to the editor ran in last week's paper and that there are additional letters this week on both sides. Individuals from the committee can choose to write other letters on their own. If passed, the amended ordinance does have potential to directly impact ORVs we studied and documented: scenic, recreation, and natural resources. Contrary to the recent signage, more docks are not eco-friendly and shade marsh grasses and would add more boats to the river. State and federal rules for dock construction are less strict than current local requirements.
- 6. Other discussion:** York Lobstermen's annual trap clean-up day is on Saturday, starting at 7 a.m. at Town Dock #1. York Community Dialogue forum on Sea Level Rise was noted for Saturday, May 4. Several committee members from York plan to attend.
- 7. Agenda items for next meeting(s):** None identified. We will continue to meet monthly.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hunter