

## **York River Stewardship Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.**

**Banquet Room, Kittery Community Center**

### **Minutes**

1. Present: Stewardship Committee: Allan Cawrse, Beth Cromwell, Sally Harold, Ed Henningsen, David Marshall, Mary Marshall, Susie Rice, Deane Rykerson, Jim Smith, Judy Spiller. Program Coordinator: Jenn Hunter. Wells Reserve: Paul Dest; US Park Service: Jim MacCartney, Hannah Volk. Guest: Kim Tourigny, York resident
2. Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2023, postponed to next meeting.
3. Introduce Program Coordinator: Jennifer Hunter. Jenn was coordinator for Study Committee. Has been serving as NOAA federal liaison for three National Estuarine Research Reserves. Previously, director of Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership. Serving our committee as an independent contractor. App. 25 hours a week. Annual contract runs to June 30, 2024. Near term priorities: Getting project work underway. Establishing criteria for small grants program (\$50,000), including RFP and criteria for evaluation. At November meeting, we can discuss ideas with goal of issuing RFP in early 2024. Committee has funds (\$25,000) to develop and implement projects. Jenn will bring forward a list of potential priority projects based on Stewardship Plan to the committee.  
Longer term, group needs a strategic communications plan, including developing a logo, acquiring communication software, and re-design of website. Will seek a contractor for assistance. Jenn will facilitate this process.  
Susie Rice suggested Conservation Standards best practices could help guide priority setting. Ed Henningsen suggested meeting with each Town's planners as some are new.
4. NPS Updates (Jim M.): Government shut down may or not occur. Workplan for next Cooperative Agreement, inc. budget, needs committee approval at the February meeting.
5. Development of York River Stewardship Plan (Jenn) - Jenn reviewed development of the watershed plan, including resident outreach, periodic meetings with experts on each of the identified ORVs; directed studies (fisheries, archaeology, historic resources, etc.), build-out study, coastal resilience modeling, etc.
6. Report: York Ad Hoc Committee to Improve Access - Committee is beginning formal meetings. First meeting is November 14.
7. Other Business: Stefan Claesson suggested we address ponding in River saltmarshes. Maine Coast Heritage Trust representative is willing to speak with us on the importance of addressing this issue and the work they are doing. Will try to arrange a meeting with key players in December.  
Deane Rykerson mentioned that McIntire Garrison ownership might be changing. One of, if not the oldest house in York. Will keep an eye on updates.
8. Public Comment: Kim Tourigny from York interested in Committee work.
9. Next Meeting – November 28, 2023
10. Adjourned at 6:45 PM. Moved by E. Henningsen, seconded by M. Marshall. Unanimous.