

York River Stewardship Committee

Minutes for the February 24, 2026 Meeting

Voting members present: Karen Arsenault, Philip Brekke, Beth Cromwell, David Marshall, Mary Marshall, Jim Smith, Judy Spiller (chairing in Joan's absence)

Non-voting members present: Emma Lord (NPS), Deane Rykerson (alternate), Jenn Hunter (Coordinator)

Guests: Bob Gray and Mike Melhorn from Kittery Water District; Liz Walworth (YLT), Bill Goodwin, Clayton Smith

1. Welcome: Judy opened the meeting at 5:32 and welcomed our guests. We did a round of introductions. Judy noted that Philip is now the appointed member from South Berwick and that Anna DiChiara is the newly appointed alternate member for York.
2. Kittery Water District presentation by Bob Gray highlighting its history, water usage by shipyard, smart meters being installed throughout town by end of 2027, pond locations, PFAS, water treatment plant upgrades based on shipyard usage, patrols, and forestry management. KWD recommends that a full-time conservation officer be added to the police budget.
3. Minutes: Mary made a motion to approve Jan 2026 minutes, Jim seconded. All approved.
4. Budget for FFY26 – will be either \$220K or \$250K depending on whether the recently submitted \$30K grant is awarded. Motion made by Mary to approve the FFY26 budget allocation as presented for the \$220K or \$250K scenarios, Karen seconded. All approved.
5. Two applications to Army Corps for review by NPS: Emma explained the Section 7 review process and that NPS is asking the committee for comments by next week, if there are any. Committee members can provide comments to Jenn.
6. Outreach committee activities – Jim asked for help with the York River script for the boat tours; Jenn and Karen are working on a River celebration month and asked for help (Mary to help); hats and t-shirts with York River logo will be ordered soon.
7. Other updates:
 - a. NPS PWSR Program – no updates beyond the FY26 budget (already discussed in item 4)
 - b. Executive committee – no updates
 - c. Coordinator update – RFP for watershed grants to be sent out on 2/26/26
 - d. River Access Ad Hoc Committee: Mary and Beth discussed some of the dock ordinance recommendations and neighborhood dock proposals they are considering.
 - e. Other members – Deane noted the upcoming Working Waterfront event in Kittery on April 16, with Judy and Deane offering to set up our table.
8. Public Comments: Bill Goodwin commented on how much he liked the salt marsh walk and what a great educational program that is for the public and suggested similar events.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Marshall for Karen Arsenault, Secretary

Approved: 4/28/26