

York River Study Committee

York River Study Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Grant House, 200 US Route 1, York, Maine

1. Voting members present: chairman Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc, Beth Walter
Voting Members Absent: Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Hunter and Paul Dest

Visitors: Jim Smith

2. Motion by Beth W. to accept minutes of Nov. 22nd as presented, 2nd Thom K.
Passed unanimously
3. Updates from recent meetings
 - a. Agency meeting with MDOT 11/29/16 – comprehensive notes provided prior to Study Committee meeting with attendees, contacts for Study Committee Work, action items, including query about considering statewide support, opportunities to highlight working waterfront. Positive meeting generated enthusiasm for helping out.
 - b. Eliot Board of Selectman Meeting 12/8/16 – notes provided prior to the Study Committee meeting with attendees, handouts, questions and comments. Presentations well received with questions similar to other communities, with concerns also about recommendations for tighter ordinances.
 - c. W & S study rivers meeting in Groton, MA 12/9/16 attended by Chuck, Judy and Jenn. Opportunity for the three rivers (York, Nashua, and Wood-Pawcatuck rivers) in New England currently engaged in the same evaluation process to compare notes, approaches, etc. Each quite different.
Suggested action items:
 - As 2018 is the 25th anniversary of the W & S Partnership Act, it would be a benefit to “stay on track.”
 - Need to ask Jim M for clarification on “what are we protecting” under protection of W & S under Section VII, 7B while we’re doing the study. Does this affect the values of what we’re talking about?
4. Build-Out and Mapping Study
Jenn provided a handout at the meeting to help better define and map out the scope of the work, including overall objectives, questions needing to be addressed, base maps and existing data currently available to be used in analysis, impact maps and next steps. Need to add working waterfront.

Other questions include:

- Funding – how much will we need and do we need it “sooner or later?”
- Find out what information is currently available and from whom.
- What information is missing?
- Who will be gathering information?

Action: Thumbs up for continuing with the build out process

5 Video/“PSA”

Outreach committee members discussed video with following questions:

- What do we want it to look like? Who is the audience? How long do we want it to be? How are we going to use it?

After lively discussion we settled on the following actions:

- Send Jenn comments to synthesize something more targeted: what do we want it to be, identify themes -specialness of river, engagement, key values -historic, cultural, working waterfront
- Subcommittee of Outreach Committee will work on distilling comments and coming back with a recommendation

6. ORV Subcommittee – handout distributed regarding ORVs transitioning into more topic based meetings, pulling together known data in advance of meetings to help provide actions that need to be part of the management plan. There will be a lead person assigned for each session with whom Jenn would work.

7. New Subcommittee: Town Ordinance Documentation

A “go to” group of people to help review documentation to be reflective of current Ordinances as we move forward with studies and management plan. Judy Spiller volunteered. Other thoughts for volunteers were Jeannie and Jack, although they were not present. Cindy said she had someone in mind for York.

8. Discussion of Boating/Public Use/Access

The questions presented were “what is our role?” “How do we want to enter into the conversation?” We determined we need to understand issues from the community, as well as the other threats to the river such as erosion, natural resources, etc. in order to make recommendations/suggestions about managing overuse.

Based on the time frame of ending our meetings on time at 7:30, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Arsenault
Acting Clerk