

York River Study Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2017, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Jean Demetracopoulos, Cindy Donnell, Mike Masi, Judy Spiller and Jack Murphy

Other Committee Members Present: YRSC Coordinator Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney of NPS, and Paul Dest of the Wells Reserve

Other Attendees: Kathy Connor and Paul Schumacher of Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) and Emma Lord of NPS

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

1. Minutes: The minutes of the June 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Judy made a motion, seconded by Cindy, to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.
2. Build-Out Study: Kathy Connor and Paul Schumacher provided an overview of the Build-Out Study that will get under way this month. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled in September, with an effort to get planners, code enforcement officers, and other municipal officials at the meeting. The study will involve many steps, including reviewing existing ordinances and developing recommendations on changes that will better protect the watershed. A discussion occurred about impervious surface cover in each community and the amount of available information about this, and about build-out scenarios – 25%, 50%, or 100% build-out. Regardless of which scenario is chosen to be part of the final report, there will be a comparison between build-out with current ordinances and one with recommended changes to the ordinances. SMPDC will engage the services of a company called Spatial Alternatives in the project.
3. Treasurer's Report: Paul presented a spreadsheet and an accompanying memo covering 4 years of the study budget: FY 16, the first fiscal year which was reported on last year at this time; FY 17, the fiscal year that just ended on June 30; FY 18, which is the recommended budget for the coming year; and a projection for FY 19, which will begin July 1, 2018 and run through June 30, 2019. This meeting focused on FY 17, which was a report on income and expenses, with the spreadsheet and the memo serving as the end-of-FY 17 final report (unaudited). The FY 18 column is the budget developed by Paul, Jennifer, and Chuck, who recommend adoption by the committee. The memo also explained the revenue and expenses in this column. Jeannie made a motion to approve the FY 18 budget, which was seconded by Mike. The FY 18 proposed budget was unanimously approved. Paul noted that \$30,000+ in non-NPS funds have been raised/committed to the study to date.

4. Historic Resources Survey: Jennifer forwarded the draft of the Archaeological Survey of the York River Headwaters report. Jennifer is in the process of reviewing the document but noted that she will rely on Stefan's review and expertise for final input. Chuck recommended that the document be copy-edited, as there are some errors that should be corrected. Jennifer noted that the principals involved in developing the report will attend an ORV Subcommittee meeting at the York Library this Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 to present their findings. All are welcome. Jennifer reminded the committee that some information in the draft report is and should remain confidential (location of archaeological sites, for example).
5. Designation Recommendation: Now that we are 1 & ½ years into the study process, Chuck wanted to solicit thoughts from committee members about where they stand, at this point in time, on designation – their sense of whether they support it. A long discussion ensued, with each committee member expressing their points of view. No definitive statements were made, but just a general sense that the process is proceeding well, that there are merits to designation, and that the information-gathering and public processes are ongoing at this point in time.
6. Management Plan Adoption and Designation Votes: Related to #5, the committee discussed designation as it relates to just singling out the main stem and significant tributaries for designation or the entire watershed. There are pros and cons to each. Jim provided an overview of examples of rivers in the Partnership Wild and Scenic system that pursued the watershed approach for all rivers and tributaries to their sources and the main stem/major tributary approach. Also discussed was the management plan's value no matter what approach is taken.
7. ORV Meetings: Jennifer noted that minutes from the May drinking water supplies ORV meeting and the June land conservation ORV meeting are now on the web site. Upcoming meetings will be scheduled on the topics of the build-out study (September and November), natural resources including endangered species and key habitats (October), and water quality (December).
8. Outreach – Watershed Walks and Press Coverage: Jennifer said the walks earlier this summer were a great success, with excellent turnout. These are an excellent way to engage the communities in the study and in what we are doing. Press coverage has been excellent as well.

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Paul Dest