

## York River Study Committee

### York River Study Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Grant House, 200 US Route 1, York, Maine

Voting members present: chairman Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller

Voting members absent: Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Beth Walter

Non-voting committee members present: Jennifer Hunter, Paul Dest, Jim MacCartney, Emma Lord

Visitors: Paul Schumacher, Abbey Sherwin

Chuck welcomed our visitors and asked Paul Schumacher from Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission to report on progress of the buildout study.

#### 1. Buildout Study Status and Project Planning:

Paul indicated Judy is still working on the developable lands analysis because of difficulty in acquiring towns' data and matching the data sets so they all work together. Paul passed out package with data sets from the four towns. He suggested that perhaps GIS and assessors' data should be standardized across towns due to the fact that parcels are configured differently in each town. He asked for feedback from the group as to next steps.

Many unanswered questions at this point: impervious surface analyses, assumptions about areas not currently developed, areas of public access, historic and archeological resource identifications as well as rare plants. It was unclear if and how the statewide LIDAR data could be used in the impervious surface analysis.

The group was concerned about the fact that Judy Colby George is behind schedule in completing this work. It was determined that we needed her to come to our next Study Committee meeting to present her draft product for review.

Abbey reported that she is looking at zoning ordinances, comprehensive and open space plans in the four towns and doing a non-regulatory analysis. She thought it would be helpful to compare comp. plans from each town to see how they match up and to review potential recommendations.

#### 2. Review of Minutes:

*On a motion made by Joan to accept the minutes of the November meeting and seconded by Mike, passing unanimously.*

#### 3. Quarterly Budget Update and Federal Funding Update:

Paul reviewed the current budget included in the packet sent to the committee members prior to the meeting, reflecting this fiscal year (as per WNERR), starting July 1.

Chuck asked Jenn to leave the room, so the group could discuss the current review of the second year of her work and determine whether we might consider a bonus or increase in salary.

*A motion was made by Joan and seconded by Judy to allocate \$4000 in increased compensation for Jenn for her upcoming contract with the format to be worked out between Paul, Chuck and Jenn, and passed unanimously.*

4. Recap of Dec/Jan Meetings:

Dec. 6 – Mike, Chuck and Cindy met with Harbor Board to give an update

Dec. 6 – Jenn asked Bryce Waldrop to share stewardship action at the Historic District Commission meeting

Dec. 11 – Kittery Town Council Meeting – Chuck, Jenn, Judy met with committee, Suzanne Petersen from Lamprey River attended too

Dec. 14 – Eliot Select Board – update from Chuck, Jenn and Suzanne from Lamprey River

Jan. 8 – Eliot Historical Society – 70-80 people attended including Bonnie Pothier from Senator King's office, press and interested citizens

Jan. 12 – York Lobsterman Group – Mike gave an update, handout on designation and draft plan

Jan. 16 – Leslie Hinz, York Stormwater Manager – Mike, Jenn, Karen met with Leslie about Lawns to Lobsters program

Jenn noted that she posted and distributed final reports for the Historic Resources surveys and that there had been lengthy ongoing discussion about where the artifacts that were found on Eliot town land should be housed. The Town of Eliot voted to keep the artifacts rather than donate them back to the York River Study. She delivered artifacts to the Town who has opted to have the Eliot Historical Society maintain them.

5. Town Votes:

Jenn discussed warrant article language and whether there should be two separate articles, one for the plan and another for designation. She passed out four examples provided by Jim from other rivers. Everyone was OK with the one warrant article approach to keep the approach as simple as possible. Further discussion ensued around running verbiage by the various towns.

6. Stewardship Plan Development:

Jenn provided a handout and commented that there should be a placeholder for "what comes next" after designation. Jim, Judy, Chuck and Paul volunteered to consider an administrative structure for the group going forward. Jenn went over fleshed out objectives and actions with bullet level of detail and asked for feedback. There might be value in prioritizing actions in the plan, once they are done. Drafts will be circulated to the committee for review when appropriate.

7. York Community Initiatives Fund Grant:

YRSC received a \$1500 grant from this group last year. Generally, grants range from \$1500-2000.

Jenn will put a proposal together for a project that will help with outreach to our communities prior to the fall votes. She will discuss further with the Outreach team at its next meeting.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

Listed on this meeting's agenda

9. Next Meeting:

First hour will be dedicated to the buildout study.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Arsenaault, Acting Clerk