

York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Cindy Donnell, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller

Voting Members Absent: Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc

Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter

Other Attendees: David Chase

5:30 meeting called to order by Chuck Ott

1. **Minutes of the November meeting** were approved.
2. **Budget Report:** Paul Dest distributed report through second quarter (Dec.) showing all funds received by the Reserve through the cooperative agreement with the Park Service. Talked about potential for additional funds from the Park Service, which at the moment is unconfirmed.
3. **Draft designation bill for York River:** Paul reported that Congresswoman Pingree's staff developed a draft bill, which she will introduce soon. It was suggested that we let Pingree's staff work with Senator King's staff on a companion bill to be introduced in the Senate so that they will match.
4. **NPS Study Report Status:** Due to government shutdown, a draft report is not available for review. It consists of some boiler plate, some information customized for each river plus information from our Stewardship Plan. Once completed the report is posted on the NPS public information site where there is a public comment period. Our role is to review the report, provide comments and provide letters of support from different entities within each of the four towns, and including state agencies.
5. **Citizens Petition to Amend the York Harbor Ordinance for Docks:** There will be a public hearing on this at next Monday's BOS meeting. There was much discussion about our role regarding this issue at the current time. We have previously talked with the Harbor Board on the dock issue. The Stewardship Plan recommends further study for capacity and use. There is agreement for the need to do a study to understand how many docks could be added under the current ordinance versus the proposed change. As our committee has no authority, we can only provide information and perhaps money for a study if indeed we get designation.

6. Current Role for Study Committee, key functions and capacity:

- Apply for grants?
- Go before town boards to report status?
- Formalize plan for our group. Still a committee until designation.
- In preparation for designation, help set the stage for managing the transition.

Adjourned at 7:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Arsenault