

**York River Study Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 26, 2019, Grant House, York**

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Cindy Donnell, Joan LeBlanc, Thom Kearns, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy

Voting Members Absent: Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Judy Spiller

Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney, Emma Lord

Other Attendees: David Webber, Paula Sewall

5:30 meeting called to order by Chuck Ott

1. **Minutes of the February meeting:** Motion to approve made by Cindy and seconded by Thom. All in favor.
2. **Designation Bill for York River:** Paul Dest reported on Washington visit with both Pingree and King offices. Pingree has already submitted a bill in the House. Paul received reassurances from King's staff that they are fully aware of the support of the community for designation and that they are waiting for the Park Service's study to be published. There is a chance, if the timing is right that once King submits a bill on the Senate side, that our bill could be included in a bill being submitted by a Senator in Oregon regarding the current legislation relating to rivers in his state.
3. **Budget Status and Update:** Paul commented that the money on hand is quickly dwindling and that he is hopeful that the cooperative agreement with the NPS will be amended and money added by 7/1, which would be available for a year.
4. **NPS Study Report Status:** Emma commented that the report consists of some boiler plate language, information customized for each river, plus information from our Stewardship Plan. She said she was trying to be consistent, language wise, with other reports, as there had been some changes suggested by our group in the boiler plate language. Target date for completion is May 1, which starts the 90-day comment period. It should be treated as done once it gets posted to the public site. Goal is to get it into the hands of the decisionmakers as quickly as possible.
5. **Citizens Petition to Amend the York Harbor Ordinance for Docks:** David Webber discussed the proposed amendment with the group.
  - Citizens petition could double the number of docks in the river
  - The Harbor Board wants to do a study first
  - The Town disallowed the Harbor Board's preference vote on the ballot
  - 120 lots could benefit from the ordinance change
  - Can't rely on the state regarding the length of a dock

- Harbor Board willing to support a revised ordinance based on a study to determine how many docks and how much use can the river safely support.

**Current Role for Study Committee on this matter:** Jenn suggested that we can point to our Stewardship Plan and process to support a Harbor Study. We reviewed the Town's Comp Plan and are in agreement with it. Chuck added that we are speaking consistently with what we've stated before and it's important for our majority of voters to know where we stand. Study first! The river belongs to all property owners -- all citizens. It's there for everyone to enjoy. People own to the low water mark. The remainder is town property.

The group is in favor of endorsing VOTE NO ON 4 and will write a letter to the editor for the paper.

6. **Stewardship Committee:** Jenn passed out a previous form used when soliciting members for the Study Committee, which includes various interests, skill areas, etc. showing a broad spectrum of representation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Arsenault