

York River Study Committee Meeting

February 21, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

York Land Trust

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Present: Karen Arsenault, Jean Demetracopoulos, Paul Dest, Emma Lord, Mike Masi, Jim MacCartney, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller. Bob Gray, Kittery Water District, Aman da Bouchard and Mike Sinclair, York Harbor Board; Dave Gittins and Kiki Tidwell, York; Deane Rykerson, Kittery.
3. Minutes approved: Moved C. Ott; seconded J. Demetracopoulos. Unanimous.
4. Community Feedback on News of Designation (everyone) – Congratulations on designation at long last.
5. Cooperative Agreement Update (Paul, Jim, Emma): cooperative agreement reviewed. Discussed Wells Reserve as fiscal agent, keeping in mind that the Stewardship Committee should explore designation as a 501 C3 once it is established. **Moved by J. Demetracopoulos and seconded by C. Ott to appoint Wells reserve as fiscal agent. Vote unanimous. Paul working on job description for coordinator.**
6. Status of Municipal Appointments (Judy with others): Eliot to make Stewardship appointments on Feb. 27. South Berwick has one applicant with Jeannie to apply as alternate. Kittery has three will ask Study Committee to make recommendations. Karen is working with York to post opportunity.
7. Municipal Representation on Stewardship Committee: Discussion about appropriate number of York representatives as Town constitutes a majority of land. **Agreed to 6. Moved by C. Ott and seconded by K. Arsenault. Vote unanimous.**
Key Partner Organizations/Entities : Generated a draft list for the Stewardship committee, including York Harbor Board; York Conservation Commission; York Shellfish Committee; York Parks and Recreation; Museums of Olde York; York Lobstermen Association; York, Great Works, and Kittery Land Trusts; Eliot Conservation Commission; Eliot Historical Society; South Berwick Historical Society; Kittery Water District; Tide Mill Institute; Maine Coastal Heritage Trust; Nature Conservancy; York County Audubon; Maine Department of Transportation, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Inland Fisheries, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands; first nation representatives; individuals: Tad Baker, others.
Timeline and Key Events for Transition: Summer months organize Board – by-laws, training, budget, review Stewardship plan, Cooperative agreement. Paul working on job description for coordinator.
8. Other Business: Next meeting Tuesday, March 28 at 5:30 PM, York Land Trust.
9. Public Comments: Deane Rykerson suggested a viewing of the film, Tide Mills of York. To be scheduled once full Stewardship Committee is appointed.
10. Adjourned: 6:50 pm.