

York River Study Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

York Land Trust

Minutes

1. Present: Study Committee: Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Paul Dest, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller. Stewardship committee members: Ed Henigsen, David Marshall. NPS: Jim MacCartney, Hannah Wall. Amelia Nardil, YLT. Jim Smith, York.
The Committee welcomed newly-appointed Eliot Stewardship Committee members Ed Henigsen and David Marshall as well as alternate, Stefan Claesson and new NPS fellow, Hannah Volk.
2. Approved minutes: February 21, 2023. Moved by C. Otto, seconded by M.Masi. Unanimous.
3. Updates from Washington, DC: Appropriations (Jim, Paul): NPS included new partnership rivers in FY24 budget. Appropriation for partnership rivers to be divided 17 ways. York river should receive same level of funding as previously approved rivers. Senator Collins, ranking member of Appropriations Committee. Paul met with Senator King on recent Washington trip.
4. Update on Cooperative Agreement Progress (Jim): Slight changes in draft. Wells Reserve as fiscal agent under review by NPS Financial Assistance Team. Proposed: FY23 \$125,000; FY24 \$250,000. Wells Discussion about Hannah's role: start with looking at other partnership rivers for by-laws, coordinator job description, etc. Paul is working on a draft coordinator job description based on what was posted for Study Committee.
5. Status of Municipal Appointments (Judy, Karen, Jeannie with others): Eliot has completed the process; South Berwick has two candidates and will make the appointments soon after interviewing them. Kittery has three candidates with an April 14 deadline. Will ask Committee to make a recommendation at the April 25 meeting for a May 8 Council vote. York has 21 with an April 7 deadline. Paul will send a letter to Selectboard on Study Committee's behalf to consider Study Committee members appointments to provide Stewardship Committee with continuity. At some point need to address terms. Study Committee initially recommended three and four year terms for the first set of appointments to prevent total turnover at end of the first term. Review Key Partner Organizations/Entities (Judy): Will bring to next meeting.
6. Update on Designation Event (Karen, Paul): Contingent on Rep. Pingree's schedule. Hope to use York Golf and Tennis. Speakers: Rep. Pingree. Park Service. Chuck. First nation involvement. (Jim will follow-up.) Others. Subcommittee: Karen, Paul, Mike, Joan and Judy
7. Other Business: Website and webhosting renewed. Jenn will continue to post agendas and minutes
8. Public Comments
9. Adjourn: Moved C. Otto, seconded K. Arsenault. Unanimous. 6:45 pm.
Next meeting: 5:30 pm, April 25, 2023

Approved 05.22.23