

York River Stewardship Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

August 22, 2023

Attendees: Karen Arsenault, Philip Brekke, Allan Cawrse, Beth Cromwell, Paul Dest, Sally Harold, Karl Honkonen, Joan LeBlanc, Jim MacCartney, David Marshall, Mary Marshall, Jim Smith, Judy Spiller, Hannah Volk, Emma Lord

Chair Judy Spiller welcomed committee members, opened the meeting at 5:35 and began the meeting by stating that our authority as a committee comes from an act of Congress. Our responsibility is to fulfill our management plan recommendations. For further reference, everything is on our website.

- **Approve Minutes of July 25th Meeting**: Two errors were noted with the meeting minutes: the date of the next meeting and the absence of David Marshall from that meeting. Mary Marshall then made a motion to accept the minutes, as corrected, seconded by Jim Smith, unanimously approved.
- **Status of Coordinator Search**: Paul reported that there were 30 applicants. The Search Committee is coming up with the top 3-5 candidates for review. They will begin to schedule in person interviews as soon as possible. All names remain confidential. We want to move forward quickly.
- **NPS/PWSR Appropriations Update**: Paul reported that FY'24 is going to be a rough year due to the high dysfunction in the House of Representatives at certain levels. We may be level funded but need to be sure all rivers are equally funded. Budget may not be in place until October. Our senators are working for us. If we are level funded for '24, dollars will be \$210,000. Regarding receipt of funding from the Park Service the Reserve works on a reimbursement basis.
- **Continued Review of Draft Bylaws**: Much discussion continued about calling of special meetings, formal voting, what constitutes a quorum, definition of alternates and-their status with regard to voting.
- **Motion was made by Joan LeBlanc to approve the Bylaws with three proposed edits:**
 - *Article 7 Management, line 142, add "or other contractors"; Article 5, Meetings, line 107, strike "or two voting members," and add a sentence to Article 5 stating "the Chair has the discretion to table a vote if not enough members are present."* **Seconded by Mary Marshall and unanimously approved.**
- **Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: Jim MacCartney and Hannah Volk**

Jim and Hannah presented a slide presentation with information relating to Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers.

- **York River 101**:: Judy announced that representatives from the Lamprey River would be attending our September meeting. She thanked Jim for conducting river cruises to acquaint new members to the river. She also noted that the Kittery Land Trust would be recognizing the York River Study Committee at their upcoming annual meeting on September 10th at Nooney Farm.
- **Next Meeting: September 25, 2023**

Submitted by,

Karen Arsenault, Secretary