

York River Stewardship Committee

Minutes for the April 23, 2024 meeting at York Land Trust

Voting Members present: Karen Arsenault, Sally Harold, Joan LeBlanc, David Marshall, Mary Marshall, Susie Rice, Judy Spiller (Chair)

Other members present: Jenn Hunter (Coordinator), Beth Cromwell (Alt), Paul Dest (Wells Reserve), Jim MacCartney (NPS)

1. **Welcome:** Committee Chair Judy Spiller opened the meeting at 5:35
2. **Review of Minutes** from the March 26th meeting. Mary made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by David, and approved unanimously.
3. **Committee/subcommittee updates and business**
 - a. **Executive Committee** - Judy Spiller announced that the executive committee had Jenn write a letter of support from the York River Stewardship Committee for the Town of York's funding request to Senator Collins for the dock at Goodrich Park. This had been a request that needed quick action.
 - b. **NPS PWSR Program** - Jim MacCartney indicated he'll be working on the amendment to the Cooperative Agreement. There are plans to have a gathering on the Missisquoi River for all PWSRs. Would like representatives from each PWSR (1-2 people). Tentative dates are Oct. 21-23 at Jay Peak in Vermont.
 - c. **Correspondence with delegation about FFY25 Request** - Paul Dest reported that he met with the delegation when in D.C. and continued to discuss the FFY25 funding levels to get our river up to the appropriation amount of the other rivers, along with the Housatonic.
 - d. **Coordinator Update** - Jenn noted that since we last met, she had issued an RFQ for help with our communications/branding plan. She emailed 19 firms in March and applications were due today. We received three applications. She will share them with the review team, along with evaluation criteria and scoring information. The proposals for the Watershed Grants Program are due next week. So far, she is aware of five organizations that may submit an application. She wrote a letter of support for the River Access Committee for dock support and wrote the letter of support for naming a previously unnamed brook to honor Marion Fuller Brown. She also updated the website with more current information, so it reflects the designation and the current committee. She continues to work with Paul on the new Cooperative Agreement amendment. The committee's Conflict of Interest form was distributed to committee members who had not previously signed.
 - e. **Outreach Subcommittee** - Karen reviewed items from the Outreach Committee meeting. Jenn had sent notes from the meeting in the Stewardship Committee's meeting packet. She asked if there was anyone willing to "table" at the polling place on York's voting day to contact her.
 - f. **River Access Ad Hoc Subcommittee** - Beth reported that there was discussion about making the dock at Goodrich Park ADA accessible. She also noted the committee is seeking funds for the engineering and construction work and thanked Jenn and the committee for the letter of support. Jenn had a question about the revised town ordinance regarding docks that was discussed at last night's Select Board meeting. It appears the prohibition of docks in resource protection areas was removed for all docks, not just municipal docks. Beth indicated that the River Access committee hadn't talked about setting it up that way.
4. **FY24 Quarter 3 Budget Report:** Sally presented the budget report. There were no questions.

5. Public comments : none

6. Prioritizing objectives in the York River Stewardship Plan: Joan and Sally provided a presentation regarding the Committee's efforts to prioritize objectives in the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. Prior to the meeting, YRSC members responded to a survey asking them to prioritize stewardship objectives and identify learning opportunities. A copy of the meeting presentation, which highlights the results from the survey, is available here: [Prioritizing York River Stewardship Objectives presentation](#) While priorities identified through the survey and committee discussion will help inform the Committee's current work, YRSC members reaffirmed that all objectives and actions outlined in the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan are important and will continue to provide the framework for YRSC efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05

Submitted by Karen Arsenault, Secretary