

Riverfront Access Committee Meeting

March 11, 2025,

7:00pm

Portland Public Library

**MINUTES**

1. Call Meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Co-Chair Lou Pear

Members Present: Karen Renner, Lou Pear, Mike Hennessey, Thomas Bransfield, Jay Asikainen, seated for Rick Sharr. Rick Sharr was present

2. Approval of Agenda: Lou Pear added an amendment to the Agenda to include the meeting calendar for 2025. Calendar dates for 2025 meetings will be May 20, August 12 and December 9, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Portland Public Library. Motion to approve agenda with amendment by Tom Bransfield, second by Jay Asikainen, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: None

4. New Business

a. DEEP approval of our NDDDB Application: DEEP reported that the boat launch would need to be moved farther from the marsh area due to the proximity of area frogs that occupy the area. There were other stipulations mentioned in the report. The entry road was approved and the launch area was approved for kayaks and canoes. Parking was approved for 10 vehicles. There was discussion on materials that could be added to the river such as pavers or a floating dock. Insurance needed will be covered under the town's umbrella policy. Lou reported that the town will likely perform the excavation and clearing necessary. The group discussed the erection of a 6-foot fence. Tilcon's easement will require fencing. There was discussion about what equipment would be needed and what equipment is owned by the town.

b. Meeting with Mike Pelton and Geoff Jacobsen - Site Plan: Jacobsen provided a completed site plan

c. Meeting with Dan Bourret concerning Inland Wetlands Application: Inland/Wetlands needs to approve the site plans. DEEP will advise on next steps. The timeline for Inland/Wetlands is approximately four months. There was discussion on extending the grant we received because of the delay from DEEP. There were questions if Jacobson would provide a site plan that includes materials and options for aesthetically pleasing options. It was reported that Mike Pelton offered that the town will take care of the downed trees on the site.

d. Walkabout in March with Mike Pelton and other interested residents and Connecticut River Conservancy Reps.: Mike Pelton expressed interest in walking the area this Saturday. Rick Sharr mentioned that some of the road markers have been removed. There was discussion about the encampments present in the area.

e. Extension of State Grant- Deadline December 31, 2025

f. Approval to install Riverfront Access Sign. First Selectman, Michael Pelton approved the installation of the proposed park's sign. Lou Pear will ask Mike Pelton to speak with Jacobson about signage and rules about limitations on access hours, dates and other rules.

g. River Clean Up Report - Discussion

h. Tabling at the Brownstone Quorum's Craft Fair - May 31, 2025: Discussion on posting maps and information.

5. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully, Karen Renner – Secretary, Riverfront Access Committee