

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Al Floyd
Barbara Sherman

John Burnham
Jim Halloran
Dick Sullivan

John Drake
Ray Jones
Deb Talamini

Joanne Drapeau
Lois Noble
Tom Talamini

ABSENT:

Ken Francis

Albert Grant

Dick Sherman

GUESTS: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

2. **MINUTES** of March 15, 2012 MEETING: Approved.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** NB 5g. Community Day Float

4. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. "Mansions at Canyon Ridge" – No report.
- b. River Review / Water testing – It was reported that at least 3 trees are down in the filter bed area. Email from George Caye of S.W. was forwarded. In it was reported a canoe trip from Omelia Road to the Rte 5 Bridge, took 4 hours and encountered at least 4 large portage areas and many snags but beautiful meadows along the way. Verification of receipt of application for loaned equipment was reported. Water sampling going forward.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – The 3/24 work party had 6 workers on the trail. This was followed by a work party on the 31st when 2 additional mud walks were made; in addition another was built during the week. On April 14, a work party went in from Route 140 and another from lower end. It was noted that the diamond markers are disappearing, perhaps paint blazes need to replace them.
- d. Window decals – Two sold making sales total 147, 111 left.
- e. AHRC Educational Extension – Teachers needed to be contacted again.
- f. Display at Town Hall – Was removed on time. It will be used for Community Day display.
- g. Boy Scout Eagle Award – Ceremony, held on March 25th, was a good event. More scouts coming up to that point.
- h. Aquarion Water Company Award – Application was submitted, with letters of support from First Selectman Denise Menard and State Rep. Chris Davis. Maximum award is \$2500.
- i. Town Budget Hearing – Town reinstated membership in councils money originally cut.
- j. Damage to Omelia Road Parking Area – Town's Robin Newton saw the issue first hand and

promised to contact highway department about curbing. Highway Department's Len Norton talked with the Chair and made note to have it fixed by opening day of fishing season, 4/21.

5. New Business

- a. April / May Work Party Schedules – April 28th and May 19th (and possibly needing the 26th as a rain date) set to complete work on trails at State Park in preparation for June 2nd Trails Day. Probably will split groups again, one on trails, one on bridges. But perhaps most important is getting material to the bridge sites. Discussion followed regarding value of these volunteer hours when requesting a grant and need to keep logging them if working individually.
- b. SRWA – Spring Splash had 133 paddlers in 95 boats. Planning a full moon paddle with more info to come.
- c. Sewer Project Phase III – Measure, which we supported, to prevent damage to river passed.
- d. CT Trails Day – June 2nd – Only 3 possible work days until the event. We will need all the volunteer power available, to come to a work party and bring a friend or family member. Member Alan Baker is not worried.
- e. CT Water Trails Day – June 9th – We need time to get the river opened --all spring work has focused on trails. If we can't refine Scantic perhaps we can do a paddle on the Connecticut.
- f. Dr. Martin – Asked if there would be anyone interested in an invertebrate study, to check the health of the river. Member Alan Baker thought the high school students/teachers might want to get involved with that.
- g. **Community Day Float – We will definitely at least have a table. Sunday May 6th was picked to work on the float, starting at 1 PM at John Burnham's barn. Theme to be determined.**

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 3/16/2012