

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 28, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Lois Noble
Deb Talamini

John Burnham
Barbara Sherman
Tom Talamini

Ken Francis
Dick Sherman

Ray Jones
Dick Sullivan

ABSENT:

John Drake
Jim Halloran

Joanne Drapeau

Al Floyd

Albert Grant

GUESTS: Rebecca Talamini

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:10 PM

2. **MINUTES** of May 17, 2012 MEETING: Approved, with one abstention.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** OB 4h. Eagle Scout 4i. Park names

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

- a. "Mansions at Canyon Ridge" – There is a trail that goes to a picnic table. Even though it is not along the river, it would be ATV capable for emergency access / egress.
- b. River Review / Water testing – Trip was taken from Melrose to Rte. 140 by 4 boaters in 2 boats. With low water, ride was very bumpy. Water sampling going forward with S. Windsor, East Windsor & Enfield participating regularly. It was noted that there is light coffee-colored water that appears to emanate from the Enfield dump. This has happened in the past and officials from both towns were notified but nothing appears to have been done to correct it. Several members stated they would make contact again to rectify or verify the situation.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – Member Alan Baker commented and commended the commission members on their success: 5 miles of trail work done in 2 years. Additional signed are being prepared. The trails are being used by mountain bikers, runners and hikers, with comments the state park trails were "awesome". However, one hiker commented that the trail at Omelia Road was overgrown and asked permission to cut back the foliage and of course permission was given. Requests had been made for the users of the trails to be "bug detectives" looking for species not native to our area. Information will be disseminated regarding what to look for.
- d. CT Trails Day saw about 15 hearty souls braving the rain. CT Water Trails day had 21 boaters. The water trail event was made possible by 3 cutting parties prior to the event. Most frequent comment was possibly providing easier egress from river. (It was thought submitting videos of this to "America's Funniest Videos" would provide more money than any grants we might apply for.)
- e. Window decals – After sales at the meeting, total sold 159; 97 left to be sold.

- f. AHRC Educational Extension – No update.
- g. Dr. Kirsten Martin will take us on as partners in her grant effort. She is proposing running 3 workshops for training, explaining purpose and actual study of water quality of the Scantic and Farmington Rivers. The paperwork for the CL&P grant was submitted June 7. This requested money to replace the personal equipment used by the volunteers. And chair has been contacted by USDEPA stating the equipment they will loan to us is being purchased. This equipment will enable our commission members to record information and eliminate the lag time which can degrade the quality of the samples.
- h. Boy Scout Eagle project was signed off and picture of candidate was passed around. His kiosk will have space for info as to the area trails with space on the back for postings by the public.
- i. Discussion and votes were taken regarding the “naming” of the parking lot areas. The results of the voting are as follows:

Filter bed area to be named “Old Trolley Crossing Park.”

Park at corner of Cemetery & Omelia Roads to be named “Osborn Mill Park.”

Park at end of Old Ellington Road to be named “Stilles Bridge Park.”

Park at end of Melrose Road to be named “Melrose Bridge Park.”

Park at former Hensel property to be named “Heritage Park.”

These names will be conveyed to Park & Recreation director, Melissa Matese.

5. New Business

- a. June / July Work Party Schedules – June 30th meeting at 8:30 at John’s barn, 178 Scantic Road, or go directly to “Old Trolley Crossing Park” for 9 AM. The focus will be preparing the river for the duck race and cardboard boat race events.
The next date will be July 14th same time with the goal to go down to Osborn Mill Park.
Additional work times will be on a “call” basis with either emails or phone calls going out for an evening of 2 hours of river work.
- b. SRWA – Nothing new to report.
- c. Cardboard Boat Race – Town’s insurance agent has been assured that the area will be tidied. Discussion took place as to awards and trophies and that will be handled by member John Burnham.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 6/29/2012