

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 19, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Lois Noble
Deb Talamini

Joanne Drapeau
Barbara Sherman
Tom Talamini

Al Floyd
Dick Sherman

Jim Halloran
Dick Sullivan

ABSENT:

John Burnham
Albert Grant

John Drake

Ken Francis

Ray Jones

GUESTS: Rebecca Talamini

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

2. **MINUTES** of June 28, 2012 Special Meeting: Approved, with one abstention.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** NB 5.e) Source to Sea participation

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

- a. "Mansions at Canyon Ridge" – Status quo.
- b. River Review / Water testing – Very little water has been seen in the river of late, except at the trestle area where the work party was conducted.

No word on leased water testing program equipment yet. Volunteer Deb Nordell did some training on the testing and has taken over the job of doing the newer sites. It was mentioned that Charlene Baker who has been doing the testing will take a temporary break in September and Chairman Dick Sherman will fill in. Member Alan Baker received an email from CT River Watershed Council regarding other similar groups sending their test results to the Council to be published for general use and the guide lines and information will be reviewed and if feasible we will participate in its program.

- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – Member Alan Baker said the signs have been hung, denoting the trails and requested 2 more signs to point to Melrose Bridge parking area. Clipping has been done as the trails are walked and conditions are not too bad. On the "hot list" of next items to be completed are the ramps on the big bridge. Also a new planned loop to eliminate the steep slope exit and perhaps designate a shorter walk. It was strongly suggested that anyone going for a walk take bug spray and be aware of ticks.
- d. Work party on June 30 at the trestle area really spiffed up the place for the duck race and the cardboard boat race participants and cheering section. Chair Dick Sherman thanked all who cleaned the river and of course thanks to Member Ray Jones for his cleaning and watchfulness over the Old Trolley Crossing Park area. On July 14 a work party of 7 entered at the trestle area and went at least half way up to Rte 140 working over 6 hours to clear the downed trees and winter damage.
- e. Window decals – At the July 1st event 7 decals were sold with 91 left.

- f. Cardboard Boat Race was a success!!! Much thanks to the great publicity; we had a great deal of interest and cheering from the locals who really showed town spirit. It was noted with great delight that no trash was left behind and that gave the AHRC members a real sense that their work was appreciated. There were 7 entries and the registration and other activities brought in \$200 which was turned over to the 5 Corner Cupboard. Prior to the boat race the BMX Park group held its 3rd duck race and as requested AHRC members secured the area for the safety of the participants and helped launch and capture the ducks.
- g. The names that were proposed and voted on at the last meeting were listed in a letter sent to Ms. Melissa Maltese. The process had been first asking the First Selectman Denise Menard how to go about identifying the areas. She said to check with Ms. Maltese, who, in turn, said she had no problem with AHRC members naming the park/parking areas. Since there has been no response to the letter one way or the other from Ms. Maltese, Chairman Dick Sherman will go to the Board of Selectmen's meeting and present the names and explain how they were selected in our attempt to remind town residents of some of its history.

5. New Business

- a. August Work Party Schedules – August 4th on the river stopping at noon, with usually meeting at 8:30 at John's barn, 178 Scantic Road or go directly to "Old Trolley Crossing Park" for 9 AM. Then, on August 11th the same arrangement, working only until noon.
 - b. SRWA – Nothing new to report since vacations postponed its meeting until later this month.
 - c. Water safety issues were discussed. Chairman Dick Sherman noted some laxity. He emphasized the good track record for safety up until now and that we need to keep it that way. Each person with a saw needed to have a spotter. It was noted that the first aid kit contains an epi pin and it was explained how to use it.
 - d. Plans for a social gathering were discussed.
5. e. Member Alan Baker noted that September 29th was Source to Sea day for Ct River Council's cleanup and he asked if we wanted to participate as a group or individually. It was decided that the group would participate and Alan would coordinate the activity.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 7/20/2012