

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 16, 2012

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alan Baker  
Jim Halloran  
Dick Sullivan

John Drake  
Ray Jones  
Deb Talamini

Joanne Drapeau  
Barbara Sherman  
Tom Talamini

Al Floyd  
Dick Sherman

**ABSENT:**

John Burnham

Ken Francis

Albert Grant

Lois Noble

**GUESTS:** Rebecca Talamini

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 PM

2. **MINUTES** of July 19, 2012 Special Meeting: Approved, with two abstentions.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None

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

- a. River Review – After Friday's rains, the color was chocolate and pictures were taken after the downpour. A letter, including the photos, will be sent to Wetlands Commissions with an official complaint about the conditions and lack of action.
- b. Water testing – Testing continues and during the hiatus of Charlene Baker, either the Chair or another interested person will take over her part of the Scantic testing.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – Trail is being used by runners and bikers. In addition member Ray Jones has been weed-whacking not only the trestle park area but the trail coming in from Old Ellington Road up to the private property line and going in from Omelia Road to that private property line, keeping it in good shape.
- d. Work Party - On August 4<sup>th</sup>, workers opened up the Scantic from Rte 140 to the trestle area, and then 9 workers tackled the snags at the trestle area on August 11. Now the river is actually open from Melrose Bridge to trestle area. If we were to sponsor a fun paddle that is where we would go.
- e. Window decals – There are 88 left.
- f. The Chair attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting August 7, giving them a brief overview of our activities for the year. He tried to clear up the concerns as to our Commission naming of parks in town. It was left that the BofS would do some background research to see what the procedure has been in the past.
- g. Member Alan Baker has registered the Commission to participate on September 29<sup>th</sup> with the Source to Sea day for Ct River Council's cleanup. Alan will make contact to have a dumpster available for the trash that is collected. The dumpster will be at South Water Street. He suggested that vests be worn to make the volunteers more visible on roads with heavy traffic.

## **5. New Business**

- a. August Work Party Schedules – No further dates were set for August because it was decided that 2 days a month were all that could be fit in for the large group but some members may work individually. September 8 was set as a river work day in addition to 9/29 for the clean-up.
- b. SRWA – A Blue Moon Paddle has been set for 8/31st with registration, which is a MUST, scheduled for 6:30 and the paddle to start at 7:30. Participants must bring their own PFD's, flashlights and canoes or kayaks. Glow sticks will be provided while supplies last.
- c. Senior Center Talk – The Chair was requested to talk to the seniors about the Scantic River State Park and he told of the Commission's progress on the trails. Many would like to hike it but it was suggested that first they try a shorter walk and if they do go to the State Park that they stick to the river's edge section of the trails.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 8/20/2012