

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – TOWN ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Ken Francis
Lois Noble
Deb Talamini

John Burnham
Albert Grant
Barbara Sherman
Tom Talamini

John Drake
Jim Halloran
Dick Sherman

Joanne Drapeau
Ray Jones
Dick Sullivan

ABSENT:

Al Floyd

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM
2. **MINUTES** of August 16, 2012 Special Meeting: Approved, with three abstentions.
3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** Under New Business d. CL&P Grant; e. Vandalism at trestle area
4. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – River is starting to clear after rains but still high. Four in long kayaks made the trip from Melrose down to Omelia, saying it took a little less than 4 hours with some snags.
 - b. Water testing – Testing continues with Volunteer Deb Nordell taking over the testing at all 10 sites. Dr. Martin is pulling together this year's report.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – Trail is being used and members are walking with pruners to keep it maintained. Trail sign has been taken and a replacement will be made soon. It is suggested that hikers wear reflective clothing since hunting season starts soon.
 - d. Work Party - On September 8th, workers went down all the way to Omelia finding some much needed cutting to be done but feel confident that they are close to having it open for a fun paddle open to the public.
 - e. Window decals – There were 8 sold at Taste of East Windsor. Thanks member Dick Sullivan.
 - f. Source to Sea River Clean-Up – Member Alan Baker has procured a dumpster for trash that is collected on September 29th. The dumpster will be at South Water Street. He will get trash bags, gloves and vests be worn to make the volunteers more visible. Press releases are out.
 - g. US EPA Leased Equipment Program – Per Maureen Hilton of that department we are still eligible but now they are looking for a Quality Assurance Project Plan QAPP which is a lengthy and detailed form. Dr. Martin will work with us to try to meet the requirement.
 - h. Status of River after Rains – Robin Newton has contacted Enfield with our concerns. Today Robin called to say contacts in Enfield were not sure how to access area to ascertain the source of the problem causing the brown water, which appears after rains.

5. New Business

- a. September / October Work Party Schedules – September 29 is set for the clean-up, and 10/13 as a river work day. In addition, it was discussed that at that time we would be comfortable opening it up to the public for a fun paddle to culminate our efforts. Date is set for 10/14 with a rain date for fun paddle of 10/21. Time 11 AM. The difference this year, the commission members will not be providing shuttle services as there are other commitments at the end of the paddle.
- b. SRWA – A Blue Moon Paddle had 150 boats and a spectacular night weather-wise. All was well-coordinated.
- c. Taste of East Windsor – Our table and displays received a lot of attention and 8 new names were added to the volunteer contact list. A thank you to the members for putting us out there to the public.
- d. CL&P Grant – The utility sent us a letter commenting on our work but stating they could not fund our request for equipment to carry on our efforts. We were contacted by email by their director of real estate and property management telling us of their formation of a new land trust. They requested that we allow them to note our organization on their program as supporting them.
- e. Vandalism at Trestle Bridge Park area – Member Ray Jones told of his having found trash and construction debris there. Looking at it he could see identification of its source and he reported such to the police department but was told there was nothing they could do. He has been the prime worker in that area and has seen 5 to 6 weeks of this illegal dumping and is getting discouraged by the lack of respect for the work efforts we are doing to provide a safe environment for those who wish to use the river and surrounding area.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 9/24/2012