

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING – LIBRARY
OCTOBER 18, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Jim Halloran
Dick Sullivan

John Burnham
Ray Jones
Deb Talamini

Joanne Drapeau
Lois Noble
Tom Talamini

Al Floyd
Dick Sherman

ABSENT:

John Drake, Ken Francis, Albert Grant, Barbara Sherman

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

2. **MINUTES** of September 20, 2012 Special Meeting: Approved, with one abstention.

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

- a. River Review –Status: a productive work party on Saturday (Melrose Bridge to Omelia Road), 8 workers, one blockage removed and lots of cleaning.
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- b. Water testing –Volunteer Deb Nordell has taken over the testing at all 10 sites. Dr. Martin gave Dick the 2010-2011-2012 report from water collections (90 pages). It was passed around at the meeting and Dick would get a copy to anyone who wanted to keep one.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Melrose Bridge – Hunting season is on, might be good to avoid the trail on Saturdays during October. The yellow trail markers have been removed from trees starting at Melrose to the 2nd deer stand. It was suggested to spray paint the yellow trail markers on trees in that area. Committee members discussed posting possible “State Land” signs as well as “hunting” signs.

Dick Sherman gave Lori Gianatti (from the State) a tour of that area. Possible monies available for updating the Melrose Bridge; greenway operation monies; about \$5,000 could replace our equipment; and a maintenance grant.

- d. Work Party – (reported in 3a)
- e. Window decals – John Burnham purchased one at meeting, so 82 stickers left.
- f. Source to Sea River Clean-Up – great success with the dumpster being full. 15-20 people helped, with one crew on the CT River banks and also paddling teams on the Scantic River. Member Alan Baker to contact USA Company to see what final tonnage was.
- g. Autumn Fun Paddle – October 14: Rainy skies cleared and it turned out to be a great Fall day. 13 paddlers (canoes and kayaks) took 3 hours to venture down the 5.25 mile trail.
- h. Vandalism status – Dick Sherman spoke with Deputy Police Officer and they would try to keep a better eye on the area and monitor it.

5. **New Business**

- a. November Work party - November 3rd next work party. Discussion was raised about where to tackle next. It was agreed upon to attempt south of the Cemetery Road Bridge. Lois was going to try to seek permission from Ray Noble to take out on his property or at Fauteux property. If not, members would just paddle back to Cemetery Road.
- b. SRWA update - It was reported that their group has lost a bit of steam; lots of trail work needs to be done in that area of the river.
- c. Patch news blog - Larry Smith, Editor of Patch.com suggested that AHRC start a blog page. Members agreed that it was a good idea; but no one had time to write it each week. We agreed to take ten minutes at Nov meeting to all contribute and draft the first blog. Debbie agreed to bring a laptop and type it up at meeting, so it was ready to send off.
- d. Parking lot names on hold. Dick submit request to Park & Rec department. (protocol: our commission has the right to name parking lots).
- e. No news from Norton family members about any new developments. Committee was in agreement that either way, the New Year's Day hike would take place in the Scantic River State Park (Melrose)

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Talamini – 10/23/2012