

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2013**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Alan Baker
Albert Grant
Deb Talamini**

**Joanne Drapeau
Barbara Sherman
Tom Talamini**

**Al Floyd
Dick Sherman**

**Ken Francis
Dick Sullivan**

ABSENT:

John Drake

Ray Jones

Lois Noble

Jim Halloran

Guest: Debbie Nordell

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 PM
2. **MINUTES** of Regular March 21, 2012 Meeting: **Approved** with 3 abstentions.
3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** **None**
4. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – Appeared to clear shortly after rain at Omelia Road but had been muddy/cloudy at Rte. 140 Bridge and Stiles Bridges.
 - b. Water testing – Deb Nordell who does the East Windsor sites reported as to the cloudiness after the rain. Chair will go with camera if he sees the conditions again to check out the source as has been reported to him. East Windsor and South Windsor samples continue to be submitted monthly.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail – About 15 yellow diamond markers were taken down by unknowns but most have now been replaced. It was felt in the future we may need to use spray paint in place of the markers. Some complaints were received regarding the inability to stay on the actual trail at the point where it ascends to the ridge portion. Signs have been made and will be placed soon. Member Alan Baker noted the log bridge was holding up well after the winter and hiker use. There is an area that could use “something” because it is boggy. There are some downed trees that could be scavenged for that purpose. A discussion followed as to the immediate need for a kiosk at the trailhead and plans were made to get that accomplished.
 - d. Work Party – No new one to report on.
 - e. Window decals – Treasurer Deb Talamini submitted her report showing a total of \$499.36 in that line item of the budget after her latest deposit of \$290. But no new sales.
 - f. Patch Blog – Surely there will be postings now that the warm weather is starting and more are going out and about.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Work Party – Possibly some members can meet on **Saturday April 20** to work on the kiosk(s). Then on **April 27**, the Commission members with others including volunteer employees of East Windsor’s Big Y will meet at 8:30 AM at John Burnham’s barn, 178 Scantic Road, East Windsor. The group will break into smaller groups, some seasoned members going on the river for a clean-up, and others going to the various sites along the Scantic River, hitting the State Park, the launch/recovery areas and even

the Hensel property if there are enough volunteers. Jenn Cardi, the Big Y contact, stated she will be bringing water, snacks, gloves and trash bags that Big Y will provide.

On the calendar going forward: a work party for **May 19th** is scheduled, this will be a water venue because it was felt the trails are in good shape after the extensive work last year and the ongoing use and maintenance. Work on the river will help ensure the East Windsor section of the Scantic River CT will be good for good run on CT Water Trails Day **June 9th**. It was deemed from Melrose Bridge to the filter bed area would be a good sample and more than adequate run for those who were not as familiar with the river as the Commission members.

June 2nd is CT Trails Day and the Commission members will be leading a hike as is posted in the CT Trails handbook. More information to follow.

- b. SRWA – The Spring Splash of March 30th had over 130 boats and volunteers cooked \$1,100 worth of food for the paddlers. It was considered a success.
- c. River Guide – The Chair showed a prototype of his guide, a tri-fold of 6 pages. The first 2 are a map of the Enfield/Somers section of the Scantic and the East Windsor section is on pages 3, 4 and 5. He is working on a smaller version which will be a pocket-sized card, perhaps laminated, showing just the East Windsor section.
- d. State Legislators Chris Davis and Gary LeBeau have “adopted” the Scantic River State Park portion in East Windsor. And thus they will be promoting its use and advocating for its maintenance. Rep. Davis has promised to join the group for the clean-up on our Earth Day celebration of **April 27th**.
- e. **May 11th** Community Day – Member Deb Talamini has the paperwork filled out for our participation. She reminded the Commission that we will be under a tent and asked if we were planning on having a float. The Commission decided yes to a float and made plans as to advertising our cardboard boat race. This card board boat race would follow the Skate Park duck race on **June 30th**.

PUBLIC INPUT: Deb Nordell spoke of her participation in a workshop in Greenfield Massachusetts. Held by CT River Paddlers she heard how they take samples of at least 2 sites and immediately present the water for testing so as to avoid the possibility of the possible bacteria from degrading and making the sample non-viable. She told how the findings are posted on their website and visitors to the site can tell what areas are safe to fish or use for other water sports. Deb hopes to connect with Dr. Kristen Martin to see how we can improve our sampling and make our results more accurate, by more timely testing. The CT Paddlers group seek to have sites along the CT River for paddlers to stop briefly overnight on the trek southward. Volunteer Park would be perfect for such a purpose.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 4/19/2013