

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2013**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker
Ray Jones

Al Floyd
Dick Sherman

Albert Grant

Jim Halloran

ABSENT:

John Drake
Lois Noble
Tom Talamini

Joanne Drapeau
Barbara Sherman

Ken Francis
Dick Sullivan

Sue Gaffney
Deb Talamini

Guests: Brenda Crockett, Lori Gabriel

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:09 PM
2. **MINUTES** of Regular May 16, 2013 Meeting: **Approved.**
3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** Under New Business 5e. Duck Race, 5f. Request re SB 190
4. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – As of today, the river is still high, very muddy and just out of its banks. Just below Melrose Bridge, one tree is down. From other viewpoints no others were observed but there will need to be a run down to check for other blockages. If no further rain, it should be okay for race on Sunday. Sadly, the canoe trip scheduled as part of CT Water Trails day had called because of the high and dangerous water levels.
 - b. Water testing – Continues both in East and South Windsor.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail – Chair found first and second mud walks washed off their foundations into the woods and will need to be dragged back into place and secured. Because of the conditions, no further observation could be made. Definitely a work party was needed. Member Alan Baker offered the suggestion that the mud walks be made longer so as to make less likely they would wash away again. Member Ray Jones noted that some of the trails in the filter bed area had washed away. Chair told of weedwacking $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trail at Omelia Road and said we need maintenance work on other areas as well as in the state park.
 - d. Work Party – June 1st, the group built an extended mud walk in area at the newly-made end of the trail. This turned out to be excellent for the hike and much appreciated by those who participated. About 30 participated in the hike which took a reverse course from last year, going up the ridge at the start and winding down to the river. All who joined us thanked the group for its efforts.
 - e. Window decals – No update.
 - f. Patch Blog – Unknown if any new postings other than info on upcoming events.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Work Party for June/July – Discussion took place as to getting together sometime this week prior to the races on Sunday June 30 to verify the filter bed area was all set and to get the state park in shape because now that the rains have stopped residents would be anxious to get out and use the area.

Calls would go out to get groups together to do the repairs.

- b. SRWA – A July 20th moonlight paddle was planned. Launch time is 6PM at Somers Mill Pond. The event had 200 participants last year, including the music of an accordion and violin.
- c. Cardboard Boat Race – Thanks to Member Deb Talamini for the publicity that was sent out and the Facebook posting. If the water level is dangerous the plug will be pulled on the event. Notification will be made prior to Sunday if it is evident before then. But we are hoping for a successful event.
- d. Solstice Paddle – Sponsored by the CT River Watershed Council slated for Friday June 21 with launch at T'ville to be limited to 40 boats for safety reasons.
- e. Duck Race – Coordinators Brenda Crockett and Lori Gabriel joined the Commission and thanked it in advance for its assistance at the Duck Race scheduled for June 30. The ducks will line up at noon with registration and launch at 1PM. They questioned at what point the event could be cancelled and they were told if the cardboard boat race was called off so was the duck race.
- f. State Bill 190 – Chair Dick Sherman provided the bill and asked the members if they wanted further information and since they did, he would forward to them the request for its veto.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 6/24/2013