

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2013**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alan Baker	Al Floyd	Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan
Tom Talamini	Deb Talamini			

**ABSENT:**

Joanne Drapeau	Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney	Albert Grant	Jim Halloran
Ray Jones	Lois Noble	Scott Tripp		

**GUEST:** Rebecca Talamini

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

2. **MINUTES** of Regular November 21, 2013, with 2 abstentions.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None

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

- a. River Review – Noted that the river was getting “hard”, with lots of people stopping at the bridges to take pictures of the snow and ice in the river.
- b. Water testing – 2 New meters which will identify water temperature and PH have been bought and will be put into use as soon as the riverbed can be accessed, probably late winter or early spring. South Windsor will also get a meter. These meters use more water so the sample bottles needed to be larger. One of our volunteers secured bottles for us as a donation to our cause. Thanks.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail – It was reported that there is a lot of use of the trails by regular hikers as well as those who do “letter boxing” and geo-caching”. With all the use, members feel we are ready for the hike. There are more trail arrows to be installed to assist in keeping hikers on the right path. Definite signs and sightings of the beaver and questions were raised as to getting the trapper back into the area.
- d. Window decals – 59 unsold but 10 were taken by member Alan Baker.
- e. November Work Party – Members and volunteers repaired the bridge. There was discussion as to the need for cables so that we don’t have the same issue in the future with high water washing them downstream.
- f. Source to Sea Clean-up – Tonnage report still awaited.
- g. Social Media / Publicity – New posting of our activities. Publicity has been submitted for the Annual New Year’s Day hike.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. December 21st, Saturday, work party scheduled, meeting at 9AM at Broad Brook School parking lot. Plan is to install the banner advertising the hike. There is work to be done on the portapot that will be used the day of the hike. As members use the trail, they will report back if there is additional work needed on the trail as the hike nears. Markers will be made and then need to be in place at each of the trail bridges, to identify an area where there might be an issue of damage or someone hurt.
- b. SRWA - March, the 29, 2014 is the Spring Splash. Group is talking again about issuing guides.
- c. New Year’s Day hike – In addition to the portapot, we will have a burn barrel for warmth (the Fire Department will be notified). The Democratic Town Committee has reported they will provide hikers with hot cider and hot chocolate.
- d. CT Trails Day Weekend – It is June 7 & 8. Committee tabled discussion of our participation until next month.

e. 2014 Goals – Member Alan Baker wants another trail in the state park starting from the wet meadow. He outlined the possible 5-mile loop and said one bridge would be needed. Chair Dick Sherman read his list which includes work on the former Hensel property to gain more trails and a better Rte. 140 launch site; ramps up to the existing state park bridges; benches put back in place and maybe additional ones added; placement of the new river monitoring meters; continued work on the river southward; kiosks at more places particularly the Melrose Bridge area; getting a way to the river from the Tschummi property; identifying the right of way to the river from the old church property off Scantic road; clean up and maintenance on the original trail on Omelia & Old Ellington Road and parking lot on Old Ellington and then additional signs for these parking lots; put up river markers identifying position points. Vice Chair Tom Talamini agreed with the need for kiosks and wanted to make Melrose Bridge usable with discussion about the plans that have been submitted. Member Dick Sullivan pointed out that 1 day per month was not adequate to maintain what we have done much less cover time to add to trails or pursue further downstream. We need more volunteers to participate since many hands make the workload lighter. He was very glad for our stream monitoring.

**6. Public input:** Rebecca Talamini produced her college project which identified the trails in the state park and showed the bridges with numbers. She was questioned if there was a similar river map. She answered affirmatively and reported that the river mileage from Melrose Bridge to Omelia Road was 6 miles per GPS reading. It was an awesome presentation and had all the members quite excited.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 12/20/2013