

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2015 - REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Albert Grant
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Tom Talamini		

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney
Jim Halloran	Ray Jones	Lois Noble

GUEST:

Barbara Sabonis-Chafee, Rebecca Talamini

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:08 PM

2. **MINUTES** of July 16, 2015 Special Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved, with Abstentions.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini reported no change to accounts.

4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** *6d: Source to Sea Clean-up*

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

- a. River Review – As of this past Saturday, it was reported that the water level was so low in places that 4 times paddlers had to get out of their boats and drag them. One big tree is down; needs to be addressed, hopefully before next week. Sandbars have appeared where not previously visible. At least 5 tires have been observed.
- b. Water testing – Dr. Kirsten Martin's testing results for this past week said no to swimming at Melrose Bridge area but all right for other e coli test sites. She has been diligent in reporting her findings which are also on the Connecticut Watershed website.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail – A hiker reported that the trails in places is very overgrown but she was told that in the summer our volunteers focus mainly on the river issues. All hikers are invited to carry pruners or clippers to deal with any vines that overhang the trails.
- d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – Being monitored regularly.
- e. Sabonis-O'Leary Land Donation – Celebration of which will take place on Saturday August 29 (rain or shine, but hopefully shine) Event will start with a paddle to the "landing" starting at 10AM and followed by refreshments about noon. Expecting to have town represented and Rep. Chris Davis plans to be there. Rewards from can collection will pay for refreshments. Public is invited with the wish that an RSVP be sent to ahriver@sbcglobal.net so an accurate count for food is provided. Members of the Commission have purchased t-shirts which will identify them as such so that anyone wishing information about their activities, etc. will know to whom to talk and ask questions of. T-shirts will be available for purchase.
- f. Facebook / Publicity – Great coverage after the races. Member Deb Talamini reported on the great comments regarding all the work done by the volunteers at the river and park. There was even a comment after the posting of the work party that resulted in getting to Wickett's Bridge.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. August work party – Members will meet on Saturday August 22 at 9AM at John Burnham's barn and then proceed to the Sabonis property to prepare landing site for the end of the paddle planned for next Saturday. Then in September the work party will be the Saturday after the meeting September 19.
 - b. SRWA – Is planning a full moon paddle for August 29.
 - c. Grant – Chairman shared the good news that the grant for trail development was awarded and the details of requirements and plan were discussed by him with the Treasurer's office and Jennifer Browne who will coordinate reporting back to the state. Discussion followed as to equipment to be purchased, materials needed, and like kind volunteer hours which will provide the town's 20% share of the grant.
 - d. **Source to Sea: Member Deb Talamini stated that the annual event was slated for the last weekend in September. This is not a convenient date for most of the members who were present. However, tires and other rubbish have already been pulled from the river and she questioned if anyone knew if Enfield would be holding a clean-up so that their dumpster could be used to deposit that rubbish and any more that is gathered on subsequent trips down the river.**
7. **PUBLIC INPUT** – Barbara Sabonis stated that she was delighted that the donated land will be cared for by people who genuinely love the river and the area and are taking such good care of it and have concern for the future. Her family will be at the dedication ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman
8/21/2015