

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015 - REGULAR MEETING  
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd
Albert Grant	Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Dick Sullivan	Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini
Scott Tripp		

**ABSENT:**

Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney	Jim Halloran
Ray Jones	Lois Noble	

**GUEST:** Rebecca Talamini

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** 7:06 PM

**2. MINUTES** of October 15, 2015 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved, with 4 abstained.

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini reported no activity.

**4. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 5.f. – New Year's Day Hike, 6.d – Sabonis Property

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

- a. River Review – The fun paddle took place on October 18 and it was fun until the 9 paddlers encountered a tree that was over 3 feet in diameter that stretched bank to bank. It was too large to try to cut through at that point in the paddle and so the group portaged over and around it and continued. The lack of water and snags they found delayed the trip and so the goal of the new Scout property was not reached. Next time. It was thought that a cut needed to be made in that tree to avoid a major problem for next spring after winter debris moved down river. Weather will dictate when that can be done.
- b. Water testing – Dr. Kirsten has applied for a HHM1 grant to help with the costs of water testing for next summer. This would be a large grant that could cover the costs of the reagents for the e coli testing. South Windsor's George Caye will contact Dr. Martin and coordinate the testing for his town. Dr. Martin completed her report on the water conditions and a copy was given to First Selectman Denise Menard. Chair has a copy as well and will forward the report to anyone who wishes to read it.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail – Chair reported that the filter bed area was still in good shape and our river walker was doing a good job. Several people have complained that the state park trail is very overgrown. But it was felt they are looking for a mowed path rather than a park trail. The cold should kill back the new growth. Bridge #7 is in need of work and the trail needs to be assessed for other repairs and measurements taken for what supplies needed to be purchased. On hand already are some 4 x 4's and 10 bags of concrete. Chair must present quarterly reports as to work and hours done on the trail to fulfill the grant requirements.
- c. Can and Bottle Receptacle – seeing a lot of use. Another receptacle might be available and discussion followed as to whether to get it and if so then where to place it.
- e. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted some photos from the fun paddle. She will be placing info for the First Day hike page on DEEP website. This will be our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hike and will again be from 1 – 3 PM on the Scantic State Park trails. Member Alan Baker noted that CFPA has discontinued its WalkCT.org webpage as too costly and time consuming. Deb will try to incorporate some of that info on our Facebook page.

**5.f. New Year's Day Hike** – Member Scott Tripp confirmed that he and his wife will again conduct a food collection for people and pets. It was confirmed we will have a fire barrel for warmth but uncertain as to anything refreshments at this point in time.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. November work party – Scheduled for Saturday November 21 to assess the work and material needed for the state park trails. Meet at Melrose Bridge at 9 AM.
- b. SRWA – Annual meeting is rescheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Hazard Fire Department, starting at 6 PM. Our new river steward Alicia Charamut will be a speaker along with Dr. Kirsten Martin. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.
- c. Membership Status – It was clarified that appointed members of boards and commissions need not be sworn in to their positions. It is a formality unless theirs is an elected position.

**6.d. Sabonis Property** – Member Dick Sullivan asked if there were plans to make any additional improvements to that donated parcel. Several members has talked about cutting the underbrush in thoughts of keeping the area in good shape knowing Barbara Sabonis wants to hold annual family gatherings there going forward.

**7. PUBLIC INPUT** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sherman 11/20/2015