

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016 - REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Floyd	Barbara Sherman	
Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan	
Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini	Scott Tripp

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Ken Francis
Sue Gaffney	Albert Grant	Jim Halloran
Ray Jones	Lois Noble	

GUEST: Julie Pratt and Rebecca Talamini.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

2. MINUTES of January 21, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved, with 1 abstaining after correcting spelling of South Windsor.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Talamini reported no current sales or donations.

4. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: None

5. ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:

- a. River Review – It was noted that there is a very big problem with downed trees upstream of Melrose Bridge. Previously reported issue of a downed trees close to Ralph Winn's property was discussed with the possibility of clearing them from other side of river, after receiving permission from that property owner to access the site from her property.
- b. Water testing – Testing has continued this winter both in our Town and South Windsor. Dr. Kirsten reported that she would like to add some additional e coli testing sites in East Windsor because the sites tested last summer had shown very high levels of the bacteria. She also hopes to start testing earlier. When asked how much would be needed for e coli testing this summer, Dr. Martin said if we tested 6 sites every week for 4 months (May-August) that would be 96 tests and would cost \$880. If we tested 8 sites every week for 4 months that would be 128 tests and would cost \$1232. These numbers were passed along to the First Selectman and another member of the Board.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – Member Deb Talamini said the trail was great for snowshoeing and in fact was so packed that snowshoes were not necessary. She said it had been beautiful last weekend on the trails. Member Ray Jones continues to monitor the filter bed area and they are in good shape. .
- d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – seeing a lot of use.
- e. CT Trail's Day Hike – Member Alan Baker offered to registered our hike for Sunday, June 5th starting at 10AM. Hopefully, we will again get volunteers from Ethos Energy to spruce up the trails as they have in the past, prior to our hike.
- f. Cardboard Boat Race and Rubber Duck Race – Chosen date of Sunday, June 26th has been passed to the school for addition to the school calendar and BMX members for their publicity. Information still says the location will be determined 'in the future' but the majority of the members want to keep with the filter bed site as it has adequate parking, area to view the entire course for spectators, easy enough lower water

levels (which can be a problem but also a benefit in case of tipping), sufficient spots for egress of river in cases of damage to boats. Decision will be made by next month.

- g. Grant – An application for an OPM grant was submitted by the February 4 deadline. It requested funding to rehab the Melrose Road Bridge with intended use as a walking path getting access to acreage on the other side that is owned by the Town and the State. The other purpose of walkway would be as a site for handicapped fishing since the water in that area is very deep. The cul de sac formed by the closed bridge would provide safe usage and would afford adequate parking areas.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini noted articles about the hike and interview regarding the pony truss bridge have appeared. With what she has posted on Facebook, we are getting lots of publicity.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. February work party – None scheduled, hoping for better conditions in March.
- b. SRWA – No meeting this month but it was reported that their annual Super Bowl Sunday hike had between 50 and 60 participants on a beautiful day. The hike was shortened a bit to avoid some hazards.

- 7. **PUBLIC INPUT** – The note of thanks from the 5 Corner Cupboard was passed around. The letter acknowledged the 327 pounds of food that was collected at the hike and now available for distribution.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 PM, with hopes that all the members stay well and continue to mend.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sherman 2/19/2016