

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2016 - REGULAR MEETING  
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alan Baker	Al Floyd	Albert Grant
Jim Halloran	Julie Pratt	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan	Tom Talamini

**ABSENT:**

Joanne Drapeau	Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney
Ray Jones	Deb Talamini	Scott Tripp

**GUEST:** Deb Nordell and Rebecca Talamini.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:08 PM
2. **MINUTES** of February 18, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved, with 2 abstaining..
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini had reported no current sales or donations.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
  - a. River Review – There are at least 4 downed trees as observed from the park trail, including a big oak near bridge 8; also a mud walk is in the river. New member Julie Pratt said she had canoed from Sabonis Landing to Cemetery Road; it was passable with a couple of spots where they needed to push the canoes over the down trees.
  - b. Water testing – Testing has continued this winter both in our Town and South Windsor. Deb Nordell said she is using a different pole to dip water. Dr. Kirsten wants to start testing for e coli earlier, and wants Broad Brook pond to be one of the sites because of the considerable goose population there. She reported at another meeting that East Windsor's numbers are very high and therefore wants more testing sites in East Windsor. Because of this additional testing, we have requested from Board of Finance a higher budget this year. Dr. Martin hopes to do an invertebrate study this spring. Also planned is a seminar on water testing. Alicea Charamut, the Connecticut River steward, will take part in that training. More information on that is forthcoming.
  - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – Member Alan Baker said the trail is very muddy for much of the park but there is nothing big that needs to be addressed at this time. The Watershed's large mower is available to us for cutting foliage up to one inch in diameter and perhaps it can be used to widen the trail. Members report the filter bed area is being kept in good shape. The insurance reimbursement, that Member Ray Jones fought for, will be used to plant trees to replace those ripped up.
  - d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – seeing a lot of use. Bill 321 would have done away with the deposit on cans and bottles and placed a set four cent surcharge on them instead. Testimony was presented in opposition to that, because we are already cleaning up

discarded bottles etc and without the deposit members felt there would be more in the river.

- e. CT Trail's Day Hike – Member Alan Baker verified the registration of our hike for Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The state directory lists the hike starting at 9:30 AM. Some trail work will be needed, prior to our hike.
- f. Cardboard Boat Race and Rubber Duck Race – It was confirmed that the starting point for the races will take place at the filter beds. It was reported that BMX members' ads for their duck race do not include any mention of our cardboard boat race; therefore, we will need to do our own advertising this year. Even though they are not listing our event as well, it is assumed that we will still be helping the BMX leaders as we have in the past.
- g. Commission membership has changed with the resignation of Lois Noble because of too many outside responsibilities. Into that position, Julie Pratt has been confirmed and sworn in.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini sent in a report that as of the beginning of April she will post flyers on CT trails day event and Cardboard Boat Race.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. March work party – Weather report for this weekend is not promising and with the muddy condition of the trail it was decided to hold off on state park work. Member Dick Sullivan voiced concern that we needed to work on Sabonis Landing before the conditions went back to the way they were last year. It was decided to attempt a work party there April 2 and, if not feasible, then April 9. Meeting would be on site at 8:30 AM.
- b. SRWA – Meeting confirmed Spring Splash date of March 26 with a start time of 8:30 for registrations, novices off at 10 AM and then 11 AM for others. Some of our members will be selling hot dogs again and help is welcome. A fundraiser for the Splash will be held at Powder Hollow Brewery with catered food and a free beer for \$10. Reservations would be appreciated.  
On a sad note: The father of Mike Dynia of SWRA has passed away after a long illness. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family.  
Also former Commission member and good friend, Gil Hayes faces surgery and we all wish him the best.

- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – It was noted that the land on the former Nike site has been cleared of all trees where the houses will be built. First phase will be the retention ponds. A portion of this land is under control of Scout Hall and will be available to us for disembarking from a paddle.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:10 PM, with hopes that all the members stay well and continue to mend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sherman 3/18/2016