

## AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THURSDAY - JUNE 16, 2016 REGULAR MEETING WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Al Floyd	Albert Grant	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Tom Talamini
Scott Tripp		

#### **ABSENT:**

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Ken Francis
Sue Gaffney	Jim Halloran	Ray Jones
Dick Sullivan	Deb Talamini	

#### **GUESTS:**

Selectman Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:08 PM
2. **MINUTES** of May 19, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini had reported no activity.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
  - a. River Review – The water level is currently very low. But it was noted sections before Wicketts Bridge were deep.
  - b. Water testing – Sampling is being done on Wednesdays by Dr. Martin's students, who immediately bring them to the school lab to start the 24 hour testing. On Thursday when the results are finalized, Dr. Martin reports them to us. This has been done since mid-May. She reported today that of our 5 E. coli test sites only Melrose Bridge was "yellow" and the rest were "blue", meaning in the Melrose Bridge section only boating was recommended. Blue means water is safe for all activities. Chair stated that the colored cautionary signs were in place at Melrose Bridge, Mill Street (filter beds) to cover that area and Rte. 140 and at Cemetery Road. The signs will be changed weekly as needed.
  - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed Area – Vice Chair Tom Talamini told of memos Member Deb Talamini had received from Laurie Gianotti of CT State Parks and Greenways of CT DEEP. Laurie was excited to report that GPS friendly maps could be opened with National Forest Service's free app, Avenza. This would allow hikers to know where they were on the Scantic River State Park trail. Deb checked the app and found that the East Windsor section was not covered and Laurie said she would do her best to get that section included.
  - d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – To be check soon.
  - e. CT Trail's Day Hike – About 32 Ethos Energy volunteers helped prepare the trail for the hike. Sadly but as is our norm, it rained. Member Deb Talamini led 5 hikers up the ridge trail and one hiker did the river trail until they met and then proceeded out together.

Members Dick and Tom oversaw the trailhead where the portable potty was.

- f. May Work Party – 9 Members and volunteers traveled from Cemetery Road to Wicketts Bridge and broke through the massive blockage just before the bridge. More work needed in that area.
- g. Cardboard Boat Race – New Member Julie Pratt asked about this event and pictures from prior races were shown. Members inquired as to what the plan for the race regarding the E coli test results. It was stated that only “blue” rating was acceptable because invariably someone falls in the water and Members go into the water to retrieve the ducks when necessary for the BMX volunteers. Results will be available by Thursday and notification will be made if it has to be cancelled.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini has been posting about the cardboard boat race, and hopefully there will be notice in the Hartford Courant Event section this week. A reporter from the JI interviewed the Chair about the E. coli section and it is expected that article too will appear in the papers.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. June work party – Scheduled for June 25, meeting at John Burnham’s barn, at 8:45 with plans to check the filter bed area ahead of the race and then proceed downstream.
- b. SRWA – Much was covered at their meeting with the decision to hold a full moon paddle at Somersville Mill Pond on July 16. Usual meeting time is 6 PM.

- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – SWRA passed along a posting from a fisherman who commented on how clean the area on Water Street in East Windsor was, compared to other times over the years. He noted that the CRWA was holding an outing on Saturday June 25, at Brunell’s Marina in South Hadly Massachusetts and hoped to meet some of us there.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sherman 6/17/2016