

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THURSDAY - JULY 21, 2016 REGULAR MEETING WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Drapeau	Albert Grant	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Tom Talamini	Scott Tripp	

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Al Floyd	Ken Francis
Sue Gaffney	Jim Halloran	Ray Jones
Dick Sullivan		

GUESTS:

Selectman Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:08 PM
2. **MINUTES** of June 16, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dr. Kirsten Martin was paid \$600 to cover cost of reagents for E.coli testing, for the next 3 months' water sampling.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – The water level is extremely low, probably lowest in many years.
 - b. Water testing – The students will stop testing as of the week of August 12, and someone else will get the samples to Dr. Martin. She has continued to report each Thursday with the results. These numbers are then forwarded to the First Selectman or can be reviewed on the website, ConnecticutRiver.us. The signs are changed weekly as needed.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed Area – Trails are actively used with some weeds a bit high but that is all that is growing. Member Alan Baker needs to provide information for new trail in order for AHRC to continue working on the grant requirements. Vice Chair Tom Talamini noted that the new trees have not been planted in the filter bed area. (A phone conversation with Member Ray Jones confirmed that an insurance check for \$2300 had been received by the Town.)
 - d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – Getting down to the bottom.
 - e. June Work Party – Vice Chair Tom Talamini and John Burnham took a canoe into the Scantic and verified that the race area was ready for the event. Meanwhile Chair scouted the filter bed area looking for any hazards that might impact the on-lookers and found none.
 - f. Cardboard Boat Race – Weather was perfect and participants all enjoyed a great day. Thankfully the E coli test results indicated that the conditions were fine for the river use by all. The members again went into the water to launch and retrieve the ducks for the BMX volunteers, who had to have been very grateful for that help.

- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted the cardboard boat race pictures. We received good publicity with articles in the newspapers for the race and our water testing. Deb also posted photos from moonlight paddle.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. July work party – Vice Chair Tom Talamini hoped for a chance to work on snags above the filter bed launch site but there was no one else available for this Saturday. If there were anyone available for the following Saturday please contact him or Chair. The water is low and it would be relatively easy to get at.
- b. SRWA – No July meeting was held but their full moon paddle at Somersville Mill Pond on July 17 had about 45 participants on a perfect night for the event.

- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – Liaison Dick Pippin of the BofS, said he would verify that the insurance check was encumbered for the purpose of replacing the damaged trees. He noted, however, it not the right time to plant new trees in this hot dry weather.

The members of the 5 Corner Cupboard sent a letter thanking us for the \$200 donation that came from our cardboard boat race and noted how it would help the recipients of the food pantry.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sherman 7/22/2016