

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THURSDAY - AUGUST 18, 2016
REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Floyd	Julie Pratt	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Ken Francis
Sue Gaffney	Albert Grant	Jim Halloran
Ray Jones	Dick Sullivan	Scott Tripp

GUESTS:

Selectman Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 PM
2. **MINUTES** of July 21, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing in and nothing out, but she has the receipts from University of St. Joseph for the two checks, \$400 5/16 & \$600 7/16.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – Member Julia Pratt reported that she observed 2 trees across the Scantic River downstream from Osborn Bridge. She showed pictures of them taken while walking her dog. The water level is extremely low, and dirty and chocolatey after the rains.
 - b. Water testing – Since the students stopped their internships, Members Joanne Drapeau and Julia Pratt did the water sampling this week. Julia and Ken Francis will do it next week. The numbers were very high 2 weeks ago last week, then came down the following week. But this week the E. coli levels again are so high we have 'red' signs up at Old Melrose Bridge and near the filter beds, and 'yellow' at Cemetery Road. Both times the elevated levels occurred after rains. George Caye from South Windsor has reported that he has not been able to test his sites because he has been denied access by the property owners. He is trying to find another solution.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed Area – The State Park Trails have not been actively maintained but foot traffic is keeping them open. The filter bed area which is Member Ray Jones' focus has been kept up. Activity by apparent contractors is being monitored for possible dumping. Member Alan Baker and the Chair met, and walked the path of the new trails which has streamers marking the start. The course layout was explained by the Chair to those in attendance. He will provide the quarterly report to Jennifer Browne; this complies with the grant requirements. Questions were asked as to who can help with the work and if the Boy Scouts would be volunteering on the project. It was noted that we have several volunteers of all ages who help with various work activities. And everyone is welcome to assist.
 - d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – Lots of activity but actually got down to the bottom.

- e. July Work Party – Low water and then high heat have prevented work party activity.
- f. Source to Sea – The nationwide date is September 23-24, however, this conflicts with our Community Day. The decision was to wait until October when the leaves would be gone and maybe there would be water. Although lack of water might mean that the tire, that has been a bane to Rebecca Talamini, might be able to be pulled from the river.
- g. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini keeps posting pictures and articles. We received good publicity both in print and on TV after the high E. coli count. That is making town residents more aware and grateful to the information.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. August work party – Vice Chair Tom Talamini said we really need water and better healthy river numbers before we can plan anything; we will monitor and make phone calls when we think we have a chance to hold a work party.
 - b. SRWA – At their meeting, information was presented regarding the Springborn Dam and need to remediate the area before the dam can be removed. Discussion among members followed.
- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – A follow-up letter was received from the 5 Corner Cupboard to acknowledge the 74 pounds of food that was donated at the same time as the \$200 check after the cardboard boat race.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sherman 8/19/2016