

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THURSDAY - OCTOBER 20, 2016
REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan
Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini	Scott Tripp

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Ken Francis	Albert Grant
Jim Halloran	Ray Jones	

GUESTS:

Selectman Dick Pippin & Kathy Pippin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM
2. **MINUTES** of September 15, 2016 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini - no transactions to report.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 6. D. under New Business – Resignation / Vacancy
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – In addition to 2 downed trees already spotted, another one is just beyond them off Omelia Road.
 - b. Water testing – The water testing for this year has ended. The students who conducted the summer samplings will give a presentation on their efforts either at a Commission meeting or at a Board of Selectmen's meeting, to be determined by their schedule and availability. The Chair stated he and Dr. Martin had discussed having more sites marked next year. It is hoped that a comparison of two years' will pinpoint sites of possible unnecessary runoff. This summer we had more yellow and red conditions overall.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – Members of DPW have done a marvelous job of clearing the snot weed and now you can spot the kiosk which is at the trailhead from quite a distance away. Filter bed area is still in good condition. It was hoped that some more of the members could get together and get going on making the new trail happen.
 - d. Can and Bottle Receptacle – Bin is finally empty.
 - e. Source to Sea – A formal clean up will be put off for this year due to too many other commitments and other obstacles. Everyone is encouraged to pick up what they can when they can.
 - f. Community Day – Booth had many visitors mainly questioning the e coli signs and their significance.
 - g. Social Media / Publicity – Posting was made thanking DPW for the clearing done at Old Melrose Bridge trailhead. Some new fall pictures have been posted as well.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. August work party – Scheduled for Saturday October 22 9 AM meeting at Omelia Road parking lot to take care of the 3 downed trees just below the Osborn Mill Bridge. Help welcome.
 - b. SRWA – Biggest news: Springborn Dam will come down. Federal money is secured, all permits acquired – just a few minor details and it will be down. The annual meeting for SRWA will be held either in November or early December, details to follow.
 - c. New Grant – A new RTP grant is coming up and Commission members hope to work on getting an application in for the walking trail over the Old Melrose Bridge. Perhaps we will need a special session to tweak the wording and finalize the paperwork.
 - d. **Resignation:** Member Ray Jones has submitted his resignation due to health issues. But he hopes to be able to continue his oversight on the filter bed area for which we are very grateful. Sad to see him leave us but know he will always be part of us and hope he knows he can count on us if needed. Chair mentioned anyone looking to become a member needs to put in the official paperwork.
7. **PUBLIC INPUT** – John Burnham mentioned that there was availability for the Commission to have its meetings at the newly refurbished Osborne House. ***PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS POSSIBLE CHANGE OF VENUE. CURRENTLY THE 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETS ON THE SAME NIGHT AS WE DO BUT THERE IS A ROOM IN THE UPPER LEVEL WE COULD USE. PLEASE GIVE YOUR OPINION. THANKS.***

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sherman 10/21/2016