

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THURSDAY - JULY 20, 2017 REGULAR MEETING WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Jim Halloran	Rebecca Talamini
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GUESTS: Selectman Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **MINUTES** of June 15, 2017 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded, Approved with 3 Abstaining.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini reported that our 2016-2017 budget of \$2500 was spent on Secretary's minutes, costs of E. coli reagents and 2 sponsorships of CT River groups. She stated that this year's budget is increased to \$3500 accounting for the additional costs of further E. coli testing. The starting balance in our donation account (which includes money from sales of our stickers) is \$437.96. Secretary made a MOTION to use the 'donation' money as needed to pay any additional expenses incurred with the GRANT; it was SECONDED by Deb Talamini. Discussion included the fact that the original cost estimate of the Melrose Road Bridge Walkway was \$92,500 = \$4,000 was removed because the Town took care of the apron area clean up and the \$3,200 allocated for the wood was to be funded by the balance of a former grant, leaving \$85,300. Since the GRANT was for \$85,000 there would be a \$300 shortfall which the Secretary said was the reason for the MOTION. The MOTION passed unanimously.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None.
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – Lots of water and moving like crazy.
 - b. Water testing – This week's report was all RED except for Ketch Brook site on Rye Street. Dr. Kirsten Martin wrote: *"Rye Street has always been a little different. I have a research student who will be concentrating on that site all next year. We are going to take sediment samples and vegetational samples and test them for E.coli sequestration. I am wondering if the vegetation is acting like a biological sponge..."*
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – The filter bed area is being well kept up, with trash being removed by the Town. At the SRSP, Donna Grant through Member Albert Grant reported a fair size tree is down at Bridge #4 and there is clean up needed at the far end which the Chairman was not able to access with his lawn mower.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Again the Chairman brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen, the issue of dumped furniture at the recycle site. With no action locally, discussion as to what might be done included contacting an outside company but trying to

- get the job done at no cost. Suggestions as to placing a camera and spotlight were made.
- e. RTP Grant Award – Secretary reported on project progress with apron area already addressed by the Town Highway Department and an erosion blanket in place to stop runoff into the Scantic. The Contract company is working on the 120+ foot span they are placing in Farmington so will be busy in August. Our target date for placement of walkway is about September 11.
 - f. Cardboard Boat Race – There were only 4 boats entered this year so a change up in the event had all the boats ‘manned’ by kids. They had a ball with very ingenious paddling and propelling and fun all around. Member Albert Grant’s boat was the winner and he took home the boot. Vice Chair Tom Talamini noted that *again* the AHRC members did most of the heavy work for the Duck Race fundraiser and *again* there was no offer of a donation as a thank you or for that matter not even a ‘thank you’.
 - g. Commission Vacancy – Per the State of the Town, we have 2 alternate member spots open and AHRC is looking to fill them with people who are interested in the outdoors.
 - h. Social Media/Publicity – Member Deb Talamini publishes weekly our E.coli results and it was suggested when she gets inquiries as to the results at other sites that people be told to go to the *ConnecticutRiver.org* website under “Is it Clean?” to see all the sites tested and results. Results are also posted on the Town website.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. July Work Party – Saturday July 20 members will meet at Old Melrose Bridge to work on the old trails since the RED designation prohibits work on the River.
- b. Scantic River Watershed Association – At their meeting they reported a planned full moon paddle scheduled for August 5th at Somers Mill Pond, start time 6 PM. It was read in the paper that the citizens of Enfield have petitioned to have the State turn over the park at Powder Hollow since it cannot police it properly and allow Enfield to properly monitor activity and parking issues that are arising there.
- c. Source 2 Sea event – In conjunction with the CT River Conservancy group’s travel down the River from Lyme, NH to Essex, CT, AHRC members are meeting at 2PM on July 28 at King’s Island boat launch and paddling with Conservancy members down to Volunteer Park and then will picnic at the Park. Our Park & Recreation Department is also joining in the fun as part of its National Park month activities. ***ALL are welcome to participate in either or both parts of the day (paddle / picnic)*** but an RSVP is requested to allow for proper amount of boats if someone doesn’t have one and for food purchases. Call 860 6232081 or email ‘ahriver@sbcglobal.net’.

7. PUBLIC INPUT / QUESTIONS:

Selectman Dick Pippin wanted to thank the undersigned for her ‘d...’ good work and all her time on the Grant.

Adjournment : 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, Secretary
July 21, 2017