

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THURSDAY - DECEMBER 21, 2017
REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Floyd	Albert Grant
Julie Pratt	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Dick Sullivan	Scott Tripp
Mark Wheldon	

ABSENT:

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau
Jim Halloran	Rebecca Talamini
Tom Talamini	

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM
2. **MINUTES** of November 16, 2017 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded, Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said no new sales, verified we still had some decals. It was noted that the budget request for FY 2018-2019 was for the same amount.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – Lots of water and reports of shad in the Scantic River. With the Springborn Dam demolished and remediation at the Somers Mill site, there is better water flow.
 - b. Water testing – Deb Nordell is continuing her monthly sampling of the 10 sites in accordance with our original water testing. Request was received from Dr. Derek Dube for new samples for his MicroBiology class. Options as to samples were offered stating the deadline was January 29 with the samples taken within 1 – 2 days of that. We will accommodate in order to keep the research going. Students doing special project relating to the Ketch Brook site off Rye Street have found very high levels of E. coli in deep sand samples. This *could* point to the vegetation soaking up the bacteria and allowing the water to continually test better than other samples.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – Lots of new beaver activity is evident in the State Park and further south along the Scantic. At our request, our area Park Supervisor has placed State Park regulation signs on the kiosk at the trailhead. Members worked on repositioning the mudwalks and closed off one particularly wet area. Yellow tape was placed near the spot at the beginning of the trail where there is a dangerous dropoff.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Cleaned out down to the bottom.
 - e. RTP Grant Award – Secretary reported the Town received the request for the payment for the fencing which has been put into place. The expansion plates have been installed at the walkway and the Hartland Company portion of the project is complete. Discussions as to safety issues and other amenities took place.
 - f. Membership - With Mark Wheldon's appointment to the Commission, we now have just 1 Alternate position open. Member Wheldon has jumped right in with his efforts on the trail.

- g. Social Media/Publicity – Member Deb Talamini submitted publicity to all the print media and posted on our Face Book, etc. She even uploaded the video showing the placing of the walkway onto our Face Book page.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. December Work Party – Members feel the trails are ready for the hike but if there is time will tweak the area before bridge #11. The banner which was hung on Saturday, December 16 could use some adjusting if weather / time permit.
- b. Scantic River Watershed Association – Annual Meeting was very informative with DEEP's Mr. Gephart explaining the challenges that surrounded the removal of the Springborn Dam. He received a plaque for his work. Dr. Kirsten Martin's report on her water testing gave a clear indication that we need to continue this effort. Her annual 'State of the Scantic' will be available in January.
- c. New Year's Day Hike – Fire Marshal gave okay for our contained fire. The Scott Family will again collect people and pet food for donation to 5 Corner Cupboard. The Democratic Town Party will again provide hot chocolate for our hikers. The portable toilet will be in place.

6. PUBLIC INPUT / QUESTIONS: None

Adjournment : 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, Secretary
December 22, 2017