

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THURSDAY - MARCH 15, 2018
REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd
Albert Grant	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Dick Sullivan	Scott Tripp
Mark Whelden	

ABSENT:

Jim Halloran	Julie Pratt
Rebecca Talamini	

GUEST: Sue Gaffney

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **MINUTES** of February 15, 2018 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded, Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said no new sales but noted receipt of donation of \$600 from SRWA for Braille signs.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 6. e) June events
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – River has lots of water that is moving fast and many downed trees can be seen from various points.
 - b. Water testing – Deb Nordell is continuing her monthly sampling. Dr. Martin stated that it would be \$1406 for reagents for E. coli testing at 10 sites from Mid-May to September. We have that in our budget. St. Joseph University is hosting a Bio Blitz April 20 & 21 with focus on the environment and nature. Dr. Martin asked if we wanted to have a table to present our river testing and development in the park. Members were asked if they had time to be there.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed area – Noted that the filter beds area was clean. Several Members stated that the ticks were out already, which is a bad sign.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – It is probably $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
 - e. RTP Grant Award – Secretary reported the retainage portion of the fee for Hartland should be approved at the Board of Selectmen's meeting tonight, then mailed on Friday to complete the payment and close out the grant money. There was discussion on the wording for the Braille signs, how many to purchase at this time and from whom.
 - f. Membership –We will then have 2 permanent positions and 2 alternate vacant, if Member Jim Halloran resigns. Hoping to find some new, young members to join.
 - g. Social Media/Publicity – Member Deb Talamini's reposted an article about a mountain lion being spotted near Rte. 140 to make hikers aware.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. March / April Work Party – Chair expects to get the cut posts in place so when the weather breaks Members can finish the work on the 2 bridges at the red tip trail.
- b. Scantic River Watershed Association – The Spring Splash is set for March 31; it will be the first event since the dam was taken down.
- c. Budget – Members went before the Board of Selectmen to ask that our budget remain intact for our projects. The importance of our water testing was emphasized not just for our town residents but for the overall value of the data which is being combined with other State and out of state studies.
- d. Request for letter writing – Connecticut River Conservancy has requested outreach to our state representatives against some of the proposed bills regarding tires, bottle deposits, etc. All of these could adversely affect the river which we are working to keep clean.
- e. **June events** – Member Deb Talamini reported that our CT Trails Day hike will appear in the State booklet. It will be Sunday, June 3rd starting at 10AM. She confirmed the BMX group is planning on a duck race this year. As of right now, the event and our Cardboard Boat Race are on the 250th calendar for Saturday, June 30.

6. PUBLIC INPUT / QUESTIONS: None

Adjournment: 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, Secretary
March 16, 2018