

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
REGULAR MEETING
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Albie Grant
Julie Pratt	Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Dick Sullivan	Debbie Talamini	Tom Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden	

ABSENT:

Sue Gaffney	Rebecca Talamini
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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the al fresco meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
2. **MINUTES** of August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded; Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing new.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – water level is going up and down with rainfall; and muddy/clear and muddy again. n. A work party was conducted August 25 with 8 volunteers to make the river passable after all the rains caused more than 6 downed trees. The following weekend there was a trip by 16 paddlers from the filter beds to Sabonis Landing.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues but the E. coli testing has ended for this season as of 9/19. Dr. Martin reported that she and Lucy Noble had their research poster selected for display at the upcoming International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water and Energy. This research looked at the ability of free-floating macrophytes to sequester E. coli in Somersville Mill Pond. The Commission offers a huge thanks to Doctor Martin and her students for all their efforts this summer.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Beds – Two hours were spent trimming back at the trail but the rains continue to promote the foliage.
 - d. Bottle Receptacle – Completely empty after Labor Day and helped pay for expenses for float.
 - e. RTP Grant Award – Paperwork and photos/map were submitted to close out the 2 grants. The new grant opportunity was brought to the Board of Selectmen and it was decided to apply for the balance of our original grant to finish the Braille trail and other improvements.

f. Membership – Members Dick Sullivan, Scott Tripp and Julie Pratt will be reappointed to additional terms, leaving 1 full membership open and alternate slot still available.

h. Social Media/publicity – Deb Talamini said she posted and reposted full moon paddle pictures and other items. Info on our E coli testing will be posted.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. September work party – Members worked on the float. They will meet for trail work as weather and time allows.

b. SRWA – Their Full Moon Paddle was a huge success. The perfect night for over 70 paddlers received lots of media coverage. Good job.

c. Land for Sale – The Board of Selectmen were told of 16 acres adjacent to the Sabonis Landing. Acquiring this land would increase our open space and provide more recreational opportunities for town residents. .

d. Source to Sea Clean-up – Official date is September 28 & 29 but AHRC will not be doing an activity that weekend. However, on their previous work party, a tire and other debris were removed from the Scantic.

e. Heritage Day - AHRC will provide a poster showing our various activities, a map indicating the Town and State owned land and Scantic River State Park, and a map of our trails. The float is ready, the weather forecast is good, hoping for a great turnout.

7. PUBLIC INPUT / CORRESPONDENCE – Email from CT River Conservancy supporting legislation to help keep tires out of the River.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman
September 21, 2018