

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – January 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Osborn House
115 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT 06088

PRESENT:

Rebecca Davis	Albie Grant
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Deb Talamini	Deb Williams
Russell Williams	

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Amy Larew
Ian Neill	Bud Schultz
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden

GUEST:

Leroy Paige	Tom Talamini
-------------	--------------

1. **Call to order.** 6:00 PM. Chair recognized Leroy Paige whose name was on the agenda of the Board of Selectman for appointment to the Commission as an Associate. Leroy will go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in.
2. **Minutes** of December 21, 2023 regular meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini noted only the secretary bill had been paid from the budget.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6. D. ARPA Funding**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a) River review – Very high waters are slowly receding but, with the rains, the water had been over Bridge #2, and other low spots. It took 5 days for the water to recede over Bridge #2 but it never moved!
 - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues even in this cold weather.
 - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Trolley Crossing Park had been checked after the rains and all looks good. Member Deb Talamini reported that the caution tape was put back up near the beginning of the trail because the high water moved the tree limbs cut by DEEP into a heap. Area around Bridge #5 was flooded and other spots were affected as well. As of late today, the trail up to Bridge #5 is passable with care. Canopy on ridge trail is a tangled mess.
 - d) New Year's Day Hike – January 1st saw 250 hikers with 12 dogs. In addition 312 pounds of people food and 202 pounds of pet food were collected and dropped off at 5 Corner Cupboard. A thank you will be sent to the Highway Department for hanging our banner and then removing it. (Grateful that the winds did not damage

it this year.)

- e) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted about the hike and reported the hike numbers to DEEP.

6. New Business

- a. January Work Party – Repairs as work schedules and the weather permit. Please keep reporting any issues.
- b. SRWA – Monthly meeting will be held via TEAMS on Monday January 29, 2024.
- c. New DEEP Trails Grants – Melissa Maltese, head of Park & Rec, is scheduling a meeting of relevant town personnel to discuss the possible grant application. After discussion, we can be available next week on any day but Wednesday. We will report that to Melissa and plan on attending the meeting.
- d. **ARPA Funding** – It was stated that we need to have an expenditure plan in place by September, 2024 or the \$25,000 set aside for our projects will be taken away and used for other purposes. Discussion resulted in each bridge/mudwalk area being assessed again to come up with the current needs. Then we will plan and price out what materials / equipment are required.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Tom Talamini reported seeing signs on the trees at the end of Shank Road advising of limiting the eating of American Eels caught in those waters (Scantic River), to one meal a month for everyone. There was an additional caution to someone who was pregnant or planning to become pregnant within the year and to those under 6 years of age. These signs had the Department of Public Health logo. The Commission will look into the source of this advisory and ascertain if we too should have the signs posted at our busy fishing spots.
It was noted that June 1st and 2nd have been designated for CT Trails Day weekend.

Adjournment: 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, January 19, 2024