

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
CORRECTED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Albert Grant
Jim Halloran	Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan
Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini	Scott Tripp	

ABSENT:

Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney	Ray Jones	Lois Noble
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GUESTS:

Barbara Sabonia-Chaffee

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:02 PM
2. **MINUTES** of August 21, 2014: Motioned and Approved, with 3 abstentions.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said the correct amount she had deposited was \$130 but that the balance in the account was right at \$628.96 and that there were 24 decals left unsold. The Treasurer's report was then approved with that correction.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 6.e. EDC Meeting
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – River is still very low due to lack of rain. Two weeks ago 4 paddlers made the trip down from the filter bed area to Cemetery Road with difficulty due to lack of water. They encountered 2 snags just past the Thim bridge which could be cleared easily but with difficulty getting to it without water in the river.
 - b. Water testing – Continues and Dr. Martin has put in for another grant which would give us our own equipment to test the water on site.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail – Member Alan Baker told of including the park information on WalkCT.org. website. He reported more vandalism with the breaking of the glass at the kiosk (the maps and other information were taken). 2 Members cleaned up the glass and cleared some good size branches that blocked the trail working. Over 9 volunteer hours were put in on the trails. It was reported by Member Jim Halloran that there was visible evidence of the use of ATV's and dirty bikes in the park. There were ruts made and disturbance to the animal trails. Members would be contacting DEEP. Suggestions were made to put up a sign stating the park closed at dusk and asking the police to patrol the area more often.
 - d. September Work Party(s) – Two events with 4 Members one day and 5 the next, entering the river at the Ralph Winn property and working on the snarls that block use of the river southwest toward the Connecticut River.
 - e. Source to Sea Clean-Up – We were not officially listed as having a clean-up but members discussed efforts that could be done individually near the I-91 bridge and especially in the river. With the water level so low, there is much that can be seen and hopefully pulled out. Anything pulled from the park trails will be left in the cull de sac and reported to highway department for its pick up there.
 - f. Community Day – The Commission will have a table but no float. Event was explained to our guest. Members must be at the school before 10AM as the parking area closes then; or they can park off site.
 - g. Presentation – At the September 16th Board of Selectmen meeting, a Certificate of Appreciation was given to Gary Lemieux on behalf of the volunteers of **ETHOS** Energy (Wood Group). Also the Board gave a special Certificate of Appreciation to Member Ray Jones for over 22 years of volunteerism keeping the filter bed area clean of rubbish. He has been proactive in alerting the police to increased unsavory activity in that park area. All members

were appreciated for their efforts.

- h. Patch Blog / Facebook / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini reported nothing new submitted. She did receive a post from someone who has used the trails alerting us to the overgrowth. Deb replied that anyone and everyone were encouraged to join us in the maintenance either at the time of a work party or on their own as they walked the trails. She did submit details of New Year's Day Hike 2015 to the CTVisit site. It will be our 5th annual hike.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. September / October work party – Some members will meet Friday, September 19 to reinstall the trash barrels. Member Albie Grant will use his post hole digger and plant some poles to which the trash barrels will be secured. Several members will meet during the upcoming mid-weeks to try to clear more of the snags in the area above Wicketts Bridge.
Going forward, October 5th and 19th were scheduled as work party dates, with meeting time and place to be announced. It was reaffirmed that setting a specific weekend each month so workers could plan ahead would be helpful with planning. This schedule would start as of the beginning of the year to try to increase the number of volunteer available for work parties.
- b. SRWA – No members were able to attend the meeting but heard that SWRA plans to clean 4 parks including Melrose on clean-up day.
- c. Fun Paddle – Members still trying for a date but the lack of rain would not make any paddle *fun* at this point.
- d. Cardboard Boat Race / BMX Duck Race – In order to have the event put on the school calendar, a date needed to be chosen now. Date will be June 28, 2015, weather and safety conditions being good.
- e. EDC – Members were invited to a meet and greet, sponsored by the Economic Development Commission to be held September 25 at Merlot on the Water starting at 5:30PM. All were encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC INPUT – Our guest, Barbara Sabonis was introduced to all the members. The Sabonis family has donated to the Town 5 acres of land along the Scantic for the purpose of it being a park. It is flat land and out in the open and would be ideal for that purpose. Besides her normal interest in our activities, her reason for attending was to inquire what would happen now. Several members noted that the transfer had already passed through other departments and there were a few more steps in the process. It was unknown as to what group would oversee the property but she hoped it would be the American Heritage River Commission. All the members were thrilled with the news and thanked Ms. Sabonis.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 9/19/2014