

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

AMENDED MINUTES

REGULAR ZOOM MEETING

THURSDAY - December 17, 2020 - 6 PM

PRESENT:

Bud Schultz
Deb Talamini
Deb Williams

Barbara Sherman
Rebecca Talamini

Dick Sherman
Scott Tripp

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau
Mark Whelden

Albert Grant
Russell Williams

Julie Pratt

GUEST:

Amy Larew

Tyler Netz

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order** – 6:02PM.
2. **Minutes** of November 19, 2020 meeting. MOTION made, SECONDED, approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing new to report.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6.d, Scout Land.**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Water level was at 4 feet on Sunday at Melrose Bridge.
 - b. Water testing – Monthly sampling ongoing, thanks to Deb Austin who is coordinating with Dr. Martin and Dr. Dube.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Thanks to Tom Talamini, Deb Talamini, Albert Grant and Tyler Netz for doing the removal of the downed trees and repair on the Bridge 3. Deb and Tyler also dragged some pallets into place to help with the very wet spot near Bridge 4. A more permanent remedy is a project for the spring. Filter bed area looked good before the storm.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Still active with Kevin Yanosy pitching in.
 - e. Braille Trail – after several smaller work party days, the trail was completed this past Sunday. The 11 signs are affixed to approximately 200 additional feet of fencing as a safety feature. Many thanks to those who helped with installation, with securing materials, with fundraising, etc. to make this happen.
 - f. Membership – At tonight's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Commission members Albert Grant, Deb Williams and Russell Williams will be appointed as Regular members after resigning as Alternates, and Amy Larew will become an Alternate member. Thanks for your service.

- g. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini shared the Braille Trail photos on our Face Book page and we have received lots of positive feedback.

6. New Business

- a. December Work Party – Probably a trial run of the trail course before the end of the year will take place to insure that it did not have any damage after to storm. Please report any adverse findings so we can take care of them.
- b. SRWA – Annual meeting will take place via zoom either December 21 or 28th.
- c. New Year's Day – Our traditional first day hike will be a non-guided event. Member Deb Talamini will publish on our Face Book page the information as it conforms with Town and State Covid 19 social distancing regulations. Of course, the venue is a State park and therefore open from dawn to dusk to anyone but our usual hot chocolate around the open fire will not happen. We will still have a sign-in board to commemorate our 11th year and we will have a bucket for anyone who wishes to drop off people or pet food items. Members of the Commission will most likely be on site to answer any questions and do their own first day hikes. Member Deb Talamini asked Friends of State Parks and Forests to include our info in their public notices.

6.d. Scout Land – The land that lies in South Windsor off Scantic Road near West River Development was taken over by Scout Hall. But now South Windsor wants it back and there is discussion as to that transfer. It is hoped that AHRC would still have access to the Scantic River from that area.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – A welcome aboard to Amy was offered by all as well as happy healthy holiday wishes.

Adjournment: 6:24 pm.