

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THURSDAY - January 16, 2020**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**OSBORN HOUSE, EAST WINDSOR, CT**

<b><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></b>	(one vacancy)	
Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan
Sue Gaffney Sullivan	Debbie Talamini	Rebecca Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden	Debbie Williams
<b><u>ABSENT:</u></b>		
Albert Grant	Russell Williams	
<b><u>GUEST:</u></b>	Tom Talamini	

1. **Call to order** at 6:02 pm and attendance.
2. **Minutes** of December 19, 2019 meeting motioned, seconded and approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported balances unchanged. Budget request was submitted on time and for the same amount as last year. Discussion followed.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6.c. Acknowledgement of 20 years of service by AHRC**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a. River review – River is back in its banks but with lots of trees down in upper area. Paddler told Chair that he was able to make passage from filter beds to Sabonis Landing recently. A suggestion was made that we place a river gauge possible in Old Melrose area to give us a guide as to river level.
  - b. Water testing – Regular testing is ongoing. Dr. Martin working with volunteer Lucy Noble did a special project to see if the plant life near Ketch Brook was cleaning the water of E.coli. That may expand to Windsorville Pond. Member Julie Pratt noted cattails which are numerous at that Pond absorb a lot of debris from the water. Fecal samples will be collected next weekend for the new school spring-semester program. Questions were raised about what the goose population at the Broad Brook Pond is doing to our bacteria count. Perhaps new Monitoring Partnership plan will expand to do counts during the non-summer months.
  - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Ray and friend Nick are keeping the filter beds in good shape. Coyote sightings are getting more numerous at SRSP and a sign will be posted in the kiosk, together with new trail guides. After high water has receded, the trail is now passable at least up to Bridge 7.
  - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – The recycling continues with Member Joanne Drapeau helping Chair.
  - e. New Year's Day Hike – We had 265 signing the board, including 2 State DEEP officers. Even with the muddy conditions we had no complaints. The pet/people food collections totaled 599 pounds, after the Tripps' spent the cash of \$200 on additional pet food. Next year we will have decals on hand for sale.
  - f. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini was pleased by the articles done by reporters and commented that we also had coverage from Channel 30 TV news. After members decide whether which day of the first weekend of June will be our CT Trails Day hike, she will do

paperwork to be included in State brochure and publicize it.

**6. New Business**

- a. January Work Party – Probably more likely will wait until February based on weather forecast for this weekend. Materials for bridge #3 expansion are ready to go.
- b. SRWA – At January 13 meeting they spoke of extending their greenway trail to come to the East Windsor Town line. We will definitely be developing our trail on the other side of the Scantic, hopefully connecting with theirs. Their SRWA hike is Super Bowl Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> - watch newspaper for its new starting location.

**6.c. Acknowledgement of our 20 years** - First Selectman Jason Bowsza contacted Member Deb Talamini regarding this milestone which will be in September. She agreed to do a power point presentation for B of S, with our accomplishments, timeframe yet to be determined. Chair handed over archives from beginning of AHRC's committee days.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence / Comments** – Member Rebecca Talamini said she will again collect “Shoes for Soles” – it will be in conjunction with Earth Day. She also noted there is an APP called iNaturalist, which will give info on a particular plant.

**Adjournment:** 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman  
January 17, 2020