

## AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THURSDAY - February 20, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OSBORN HOUSE, EAST WINDSOR, CT

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

1. **Call to order** at 6:00 pm and attendance.
2. **Minutes** of January 16, 2020 meeting motioned, seconded (Dr. Martin had sent clarification that the vegetation testing had been several years ago; that Lucy Noble helped with a project at Somersville Mill Pond; a USJ student had expanded it to Windsorville Pond.) then the Minutes were approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini stated no changes. Budget request was brought before the Board of Selectmen and questions answered as to water testing. Dr. Martin will be invited to one of the meeting to explain her work. Commission was praised for its efforts.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6.e. Shoe Drive 6.f. Mall Madness**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a. River review – River is back in it banks. It was noted that up until area of Bridge #5 there were 6 new trees across the river.
  - b. Water Testing – Regular testing is ongoing. There will be a Scantic River Monitoring Partnership Meeting at USJ on March 3, 2020 at 1 PM if anyone wants to attend with Chair.
  - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Filter beds in good shape. Member Deb Talamini and Tom Talamini worked 4 hours to remove a tree near Bridge 10. Trail was muddy and slick, but being used all the time. The other side of the walkway had a lot of standing water.
  - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – The recycling continues.
  - e. Social Media / Publicity – Copies of story on the hike were passed around.
6. **New Business**
  - a. February Work Party – With frost still in the ground, probably too difficult to be productive on trail work at this point. But effort will be made to place more markers on trail to identify the path after changes to bridges due to flooding.
  - b. Kiosk – After the vandalism the map needs to be replaced and Member Rebecca Talamini will try to update her information and get one made. Tri-fold guides will be placed in the holders. Plans to move the kiosk closer to top of trail were discussed.
  - c. SRWA – Reported by Member Albie Grant there were about 160 hikers for the Super Bowl Sunday and a perfect day. They will take part in the stream walk planning in May. They had

gained a new member who also contacted us because of his use of our section of the Park trails. He had suggested that we cut the vines that were wrapped around many trees and which were in danger of strangling them.

- d. CT Trails Day – Member Deb Talamini questioned if we will take part in the CT Trails Day and it was decided that Sunday, June 7 at 10AM was a 'go'. She will register with the State so our hike will be advertised in its brochure.
- 6.e. **Shoe Drive** - Member Rebecca showed her flyer for the collection which carries our logo. Time for drop off of unwanted shoes will be from March 21 to April 28 with 3 collection sites around Town, Geisslers, Town Hall, and Warehouse Point Library.
- 6.f. **Mall Madness** - Member Deb Talamini told of the Girl Scout sponsored event to be held in the Enfield Mall; it will feature tables for various groups with Lions Eye Screening, Shoes for Soles among others joining AHRC.
- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence / Comments** – Member Dick Sullivan suggested perhaps we could hold a membership drive. Chair noted we had T-shirts and hats for anyone coming aboard. Member Julie Pratt reported she had seen on her river bank a juvenile eagle swoop into a tree with a mature bald eagle.

**Adjournment:** 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman  
February 21, 2020