

## AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - November 19, 2020 - 6 PM ZOOM FORMAT

#### PRESENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Albert Grant	Bud Schultz
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Rebecca Talamini	Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden
Deb Williams	Russell Williams	

#### ABSENT:

Julie Pratt

#### GUESTS:

Amy Larew	Tyler Netz	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order** – 6:03PM .
2. **Minutes** of October 15, 2020 meeting. MOTION made, SECONDED, approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported nothing new.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6.c, Bridge markings; 6.d. New Year's Day Hike.**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a. River review – Rain added to the water level and the gauge that was planted near Old Melrose Bridge was at the 2 foot marker.
  - b. Water testing – Monthly samples ongoing with Dr. Martin is doing them from home. Dr. Dube's samplings being used in his classwork and he was grateful for Deb Austin's efforts.

We received a preliminary report on the Samplepalooza findings and the report is attached herewith. Our site's results looked bad but we await an expert to explain them to us. \* After the meeting Dr. Martin reviewed them and responded "It looks like they tested total nitrate, total phosphate, and chlorine. The Scantic sample had really high nitrate (I am not too surprised as my monthly water samples often have elevated nitrate). The nitrate should be under 1. Phosphate is on the higher side, chlorine is low (as would be expected...if the sample location were near a sewage treatment outflow pipe there might be more chlorine."

- c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Barrier at the end of the cul de sac at the State Park trailhead was damaged and will be repaired. Downed trees were removed from the trails. Trails were remediated with the new DR equipment and will be used next year to keep the paths wider. Thanks to Member Mark Whelden for making ramps to make its use easier. Filter bed area in good shape.
- d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Still very active with Member Joanne Drapeau and

receptacle neighbor Kevin pitching in.

- e. Braille Trail Update – Work being done on the signs and some of the top rail was installed.
- f. Haunted Highway/ Frightful Fifth: After a week's delay East Windsor Park & Rec held a Halloween event. Members Deb and Rebecca Talamini set up a table with goodies to give to the participants who traveled along the 'highway' at Reservoir Park. Theirs were the first faces to greet the children and it was very well done. Kudos to those who planned it and made it happen.
- g. Membership – With the loss of Members Dick and Sue Sullivan, there are vacancies. However, both promised to help on any work parties when they are back in the area.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini submitted an article for the '5 Village Voice' newsletter. Member Scott mentioned that "Scantic River State Park" made the East Windsor version of Monopoly.

#### **6. New Business**

- a. November Work Party – Plans were made for work on Sunday November 22nd at 10 AM to meet at Old Melrose Bridge to install fencing for the Braille trail signs. Only pliers and work gloves needed.
- b. SRWA – No report on their zoom meeting.
- c. **Bridge markings:** Discussion held on markings for the new Bridge #9 that was reconstructed.
- d. **New Year's Day Hike** – To comply with the Governor's restrictions of no more than 10 persons together indoors or outside means the New Year's Day hike will not take place this year. Perhaps something virtual will be done. Some members might be on site that day to answer any questions and talk about our accomplishments this past year, even with Covid we did a lot! Member Deb Talamini will make it official on Face Book that we will not sponsor the hike. She has not seen anything from DEEP regarding first day hikes and that info is usually out by now.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Guest Amy said she had helped former Member John Burnham several years ago working on downed trees, but would like to see the park area and get to know more before applying to be a Member.

**Adjournment: 6:45 pm.**

