

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - January 21, 2021 - 6 PM

ZOOM FORMAT

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Albert Grant	Amy Larew	Julie Pratt
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GUESTS:

Ian Neill	Tyler Netz	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order** – 6:06 PM.
2. **Minutes** of December 17, 2020 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Nothing changed.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6.c. Story Walk, 6.d. Forensic Study**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – 6 feet over gauge at one point, with it looking dirty and 'chocolaty'. But no new trees appeared to be down.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin ongoing and she now is providing Dr. Dube with extra samples from 4 sites. It was explained that Dr. Derek Dube is a professor at USJ and works with Dr. Kirsten Martin on the E. coli testing project. For his spring semester Dr. Dube usually uses fecal samples to try to determine the source of E. coli in the Scantic. But this semester because of Covid restrictions, he was using water samples from sites that normally have very high E. coli results during the summer.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Tree and trail work done prior to hike and it still looks good, with one small tree down. After rain there was a considerable wet area before Bridge #5.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Still good activity but less than the summer.
 - e. Braille Trail – Looked good for hike and many complimented on it.
 - f. Membership – As of tonight's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Ian Neill will be our newest Alternate Member. Member Rebecca Talamini mentioned she had a possible

candidate for another open position.

- g. Social Media / Publicity – Postings prior to New Year's Day, Member Deb Talamini posted due to Covid restrictions there would be a non-guided event. It still brought out about 118 hikers and produced 180 pounds of pet and people food between what was dropped off and what was purchased with the cash donations. We even had Channel 8 TV coverage with Member Deb Talamini giving a brief history of our day which would have been the 11th Annual First Day Hike. Additionally, Deb also posted pictures of some families doing magnet fishing and having a blast.

6. New Business

- a. February Work Party – Plans were discussed to remediate the area before Bridge #5 and anchor it better to avoid it again washing away. Bridge #4 also has need of attention with perhaps a mudwalk similar to Bridge #3. All work parties will be weather dependent and might be last minute as volunteer time allows.
 - b. SRWA – Annual Meeting was in zoom format and was just a review of what each group accomplished in its section. Due to Covid restrictions, the Spring Splash will not take place in March but maybe be later in the year. Any updates will be discussed at their next meeting.
 - c. **Story Walk** – Park and Rec has asked if they could use our trail for one of their proposed story walks. Members loved the idea and thought the 'blue' trail would be a good spot as it is flatter and drier than the 'red' trail. It is a P&R project but we would be happy to assist in the endeavor.
 - d. **DEEP Forensic Study** – Member Deb Talamini has been asked by several hikers what is the purpose of the red bands painted around several up on the ridge section of the trail. She contacted State Lands Management Program Supervisor Will Hochholzer who gave her the name, Mark Blazejak who is the park supervisor for our section of the Scantic River State Park. The markings are part of forensic forestry research being done in Scantic River State Park and other areas around the state.
7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Guest Tyler Netz said he will be available whenever there is a work party planned, whether he is a member or not.

Adjournment: 6:34 PM