

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - February 18, 2021 - 6 PM

ZOOM FORMAT

PRESENT:

Amy Larew	Ian Neill	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini	Rebecca Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden	Deb Williams
Russell Williams		

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Albert Grant	Julie Pratt
Bud Schultz		

GUESTS:

Tyler Netz	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order** – 6:04 PM.
2. **Minutes** of January 21, 2021 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Nothing changed. Budget, as submitted, will be reviewed during a zoom meeting with First Selectman and Treasurer on February 24, 2021.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Gauge is still pushed over after high water, no new snags reported.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing, as well as providing Dr. Dube with extra samples from 4 sites. Deb has received a new meter to do her sampling.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Trails were very slushy and now that slush has frozen. But trails are still in good condition and seeing much snowshoeing activity. They are also receiving a lot of use by dog owners as evidenced by the stuff left behind on the trails. Members talked about hanging poop bags at the trailhead as a possible reminder for owners to use them and then *hopefully* discard the bags in the trash barrel. Our guides are flying out of the kiosk holder. A question was raised about one of the trail markings. Discussion followed as to where that trail led. It was thought that perhaps on our next printing of the guides that we clarify that as 'a proposed trail' unless we can get to completing what is the 'red' trail before the need for reprinting our guides.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Still good activity.

- e. Membership – Ian Neill was welcomed and warned we will put him to work soon.
- f. Social Media / Publicity – Postings by Member Deb Talamini included a snowman that was made on the Braille trail. She also posted a video of a bird singing next to the Braille sign that tells of the birds in the area.

6. New Business

- a. February / March Work Party – Plans are dependent on the weather this time of year.
- b. SRWA – Its next meeting will be February 22 and updates will follow.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – Guest Tyler Netz said he's taking notes on this meeting for Member Bud who was taking advantage of the Florida sunshine.

A copy of a proposed project for a trail adjacent to Mill Pond was discovered and Member Rebecca has taken the time to review it. It was made by with a group of UConn students and would be a great project to have the Town take up in the future. The plans will be turned over to the First Selectman soon.

Adjournment: 6:43 PM