

# AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THURSDAY - January 17, 2019 REGULAR MEETING WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd
Albert Grant	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Dick Sullivan	Debbie Talamini
Rebecca Talamini	Tom Talamini
Mark Whelden	

### **ABSENT:**

Sue Gaffney Sullivan      Scott Tripp

**GUESTS:**    Ian Neill, and son Adrian

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **MINUTES** of December 20, 2018 Regular Meeting: Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said status quo. A bill for the portable toilet used on New Year's Day for the hikers will be presented shortly.
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 6c. Blogger, 6d. Future Events, 6e. Town Acquisition
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a. River review – Water level is very high.
  - b. Water testing – Regular testing ongoing . Dr. Martin said the cost of E. coli testing this summer for 8 sites 120 tests \$1,112.08. After being contacted by a rep from the CT Sierra Club expressing concerns from residents about the high E. coli levels in the Scantic last summer, there will be a joint meeting with the Club and Dr. Martin to be held at USJ sometime in February. The meeting will cover future collaborations, funding and development of a bacterial monitoring plan. She also told of DEEP holding a water monitoring conference on April 5<sup>th</sup>, at which both Dr. Martin and Dr.Dube will be giving presentations about the Scantic River work they are doing. Next weekend, Member Albie Grant and past Member Ray Jones will gather fecal samples for the E. coli testing Dr. Dube's students will be doing.
  - c. Scantic River State Park Trail / Filter Bed Area – Work was done for hike by 8 members, assisted by our guests who helped with the repositioning of bridges and mitigating some of the muddy areas. Filter Beds area still appears to be in good shape.
  - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – very active after the holidays with Member Joanne's help.
  - e. New RTP Grant Application – Laurie Giannotti of DEEP sent a letter to the Secretary stating that our Grant request had not been selected for funding. That letter was forwarded to the First Selectman. It is hoped that there will be grant money in the near future for maintenance work. Many of our bridges and mud walks are in need of widening and lengthening because the excessive flooding the past couple of years have made them less than adequate.

- f. New Year's Day Hike – was a great success. We had a record crowd with 275 people signing our registration board. The mud did not deter anyone and all enjoyed. Many thanks to the members who scrambled at the last minute to provide pallets and planks to remediate the extra muddy areas after the previous weekend's 2 inches of rain.
- g. Membership – Guest Ian Neill was asked if he wished to become a Member; he will look into it.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Deb Talamini reported tons of stuff was sent out for publication; she was told that our picture will be in the January 21<sup>st</sup> Journal Inquirer. She submitted info and pictures to DEEP at their request and they were added to DEEP's Instagram page. She noted that our hike had been listed in a Hartford Courant article prior to New Year's Day, but it included an old picture of the bridge.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. January / February Work Party(s) – Any work will depend on weather and availability.
  - b. SRWA – January meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup>. They announced that the Spring Splash will be March 30. The novice competition will be eliminated because with the dam's removal, there is no take out spot before the drop. As usual SWRA will held a Super Bowl Sunday hike with a new starting location at the Powder Hollow Brewery.
  - c. **Blogger** – the Scantic River Park Trails were reviewed in a blog by someone who hikes around the state. It was mostly complimentary of our Commission Members' efforts but pointed out the need for improvement on the trail to Route 140. We thanked him for his kind words but told him that that trail had been made strictly as a work trail to bring in materials for the bridges in that area. It was no longer used and therefore we had put up a 'closed' sign.
  - d. **Future Events** - Member Deb Talamini reported
    - free presentation on "Historic Water-Powered Mills on the Scantic River" will happen on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Enfield American Baptist Church, 129 Post Office Road, Enfield.
    - CT River Conservancy will hold a "Trash Talk" at the CT Valley Brewery, Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.
  - e. **Town Acquisition** – the Town has acquired an Agriculture Easement on property on Rye Street that is adjacent to the Tschummi property it already owns. The easement means it will remain farm land with no development, but access for passive recreational activities.
- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – Ian and Adrian were happy to have helped with the trail work and Adrian looked forward to a canoe ride in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:03pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sherman, January 18, 2019