

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

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

ZOOM FORMAT

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Julie Pratt	Bud Schultz
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GUESTS:

Tyler Netz	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order** – 6:01 PM.
2. **Minutes** of February 18, 2021 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Nothing changed. Questions re Budget was answered during a zoom meeting with First Selectman and Treasurer on February 24, 2021.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6 d. Connecticut Trails Day**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Good levels and more to come after the recent rains. The Scantic River was stocked in preparation for another early start to the fishing season. Every one is anxious to get into clearing a passage way.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing, as well as providing Dr. Dube with extra samples from 4 sites.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Several members have walked the trails recently and advised they were passable. Boy Scout Matthew Emerson's Eagle project was to put up a container at the filter beds to house old fishing lines safely so they did not go back into the water. He will be asked if another device can be made and placed at the Old Melrose Bridge parking area which is heavily used by fishermen. There were several groups tailgating at the filter beds but they were respectful of the area and kept it clean.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Still good activity and Member Amy Larew has offered to help with the recycling.
 - e. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini plans to post about the early fishing season start with a plea that the unused lines and hooks are carefully secured.

6. New Business

- a. March Work Party – Comments that the area was too muddy pushed plans off until April. At that time an extended walkway will be placed near Bridge #4. Member Albert Grant will secure the needed wood and cut it so it is ready when the time comes for the project.
- b. SRWA – At its meeting of February 22 Chair was asked to make markers designating the town lines for the river trails in Somers and Enfield. (They also put out official notice of the splash being cancelled.)
- c. Earth Day – It was mentioned that the Lions Club and the Leos expect to do some planting and perhaps even some early vine trimming to commemorate the day. Member Deb Talamini said she could join in.
- d. **Connecticut Trails Day** – Member Deb Talamini asked if we wanted to plan for a hike noting it would have to conform with the latest State guidelines for social distancing and numbers of participants. One new regulation was that hikers register on line – publicity re that would need to be posted. Discussion lead to decision to list our hike day as Sunday, June 6th with a start time of 10 AM. Deb would lead one group but we would make it known that anyone could hike on their own and keep to the regulations set by the State.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence –

- An email from Cameron Covil was received, stating he would be willing to help with trail work. He will be contacted when a work party is planned.
- The proposed project for a trail adjacent to Mill Pond was reviewed. Members Deb and Russell Williams discovered that the property near Merlot by the Water had its fence placed right to the water's edge. That business had not been there at the time of this project rendering. Members felt that though it would have been nice amenity for the town, it appeared that we did not have the heavy equipment to tackle such an endeavor. It was also felt that we had more than enough to do keeping the trails at the state park maintained and if they wanted a new project there was the Hensel property that could still be developed.
- Member Albert Grant stated he saw some of the Braille letters were coming off and that situation will be looked into.

Adjournment: 6:36 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman

March 19, 2021