

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - APRIL 15, 2021 - 6 PM

ZOOM FORMAT

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Amy Larew	Ian Neill
Julie Pratt	Rebecca Talamini	

GUESTS:

Tyler Netz	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order** – 6:02 PM.

2. **Minutes** of March 18, 2021 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** - Nothing changed.

4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.

5. On-Going Business / Old Business

- a. River review – Low levels which may change with predicted rain/snow. Level gauge is still leaning and will be righted when conditions are better.
- b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing, with Dr. Martin announcing the milestone of the 2,000th sampling done.
- c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Filter bed area sees lots of fishing and picnicking with all seemingly respectful of the area. We will follow up on getting another container to secure unwanted fishing line for Melrose Bridge area. Work party of 5 made and installed ramps on several bridges.
- d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Member Amy Larew took over for Chair while his hand mended and was surprised at so much activity. .
- e. Braille Signs – After Member Albert Grant stated he saw some of the Braille letters were coming off, the signs were removed and returned to vendor for replacement due to faulty material. We will follow up to see when we can expect them back.
- f. Dog Poop Bags – Member Deb Talamini will follow up on purchase of hangers and get bags placed at Scantic River State Park trailhead and filter beds.
- g. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini plans to post about the June 6th hike in mid-May when the info is published in the State brochure.

6. New Business

- a. April Work Party – Plans to meet at Melrose Bridge April 24th at 9AM to complete the necessary ramps on the rest of the bridges. Also Member Russ Williams will walk the area of the proposed 'blue tip' trail and try to map out the course. We will need to schedule a clean-up work party just before the June hike.
- b. SRWA – At its March meeting, it was reported that the novice course is tougher than expected and not a good spot for takeout. Area at Bailey Road was in need of clearing. Member Albie Grant said that was accomplished afterwards. Dr. Martin said she has put in for 2 grants to help purchase more equipment.
- c. Earth Day – Still nothing firmed on commemorating the day.
- d. Revival of Issue of Park Names – List that was devised several years ago will be reviewed by members and, when finalized, given to First Selectman Jason Bowsza to present to his Board.
- e. Card Board Boat Race / Duck Race – BMX's Brenda Crockett said her group is eager to go with event this year. Sunday June 26th was picked as the date (of course subject to severe weather changing that). We will adhere to State guidelines and require masks and attempt to keep to social distancing rules. With Covid restrictions keeping people at home – maybe more families will participate by make a cardboard boat, looking forward to an outdoor fun activity. Remember all proceeds from that race go to 5 Corner Cupboard. We will need to a quick run probably to Sabonis Landing prior to race to ensure the path is clear.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence –

- First Selectman Bowsza asked Member Deb Williams about the project at Mill Pond and she advised about the current conditions. It was affirmed that the AHRC did not have the time or manpower and equipment to tackle such an endeavor.
- Guest Tyler Netz reported that he, Tom Talamini and John Burnham with Member Scott Tripp reconstructed a trailer capable of carrying 6 canoes and 2 kayaks together with supplies. This can be permanently outfitted and ready for any work party or fun paddles.
- Guest Tom Talamini will purchase a pruning blade(s) to get rid of the roots etc that cross the trail and are a hazard to man and equipment.
- Member Albie Grant reminded all of the horse-drawn plowing demonstration at the Community Garden on Saturday, April 17 at noon.

Adjournment: 6:48 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman
April 16, 2021