

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY - MAY 20, 2021 - 6 PM**

**PATIO @ OSBORN HOUSE
115 SCANTIC ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, CT**

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Julie Pratt	Bud Schultz
Mark Whelden		

GUESTS:

Tom Talamini	Kevin Yanosy
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1. **Call to order** – 6:01 PM.
2. **Minutes** of April 15, 2021 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported on the balance in the budget line item and our need for purchases to be made.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – **6e. New mapping for trails.**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Levels a bit higher. No one has reported any additional damage from trees down. We will need to check the status prior to cardboard boat race.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing. Dr. Martin will begin E. coli testing early June. She has started a pond project for this summer, and potentially will be in East Windsor just waiting confirmation from intern for her help.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Filter bed area sees lots of activity but seems to be cleaned up after use. After Member Russell Williams and Chair walked and tied ribbons to mark it, the blue tip trail had a preliminary mowing. It was quite a chore but the basics are done. With some refining and then more use, it should be a nice addition to the trails giving us an extra 1 ¼ miles to hike. The wood for the red tip trail is ready to go and anyone who has the time please let us know. The red tip trail is about 50% marked.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Lots of activity.
 - e. Braille Signs – There is a possibility that they will be ready for the hike but no promises.

- f. Dog Poop Bags – Bags are now positioned at the kiosk at Scantic River State Park and on the State Park sign leading to the Braille Trail. In addition there are 2 spots in the filter bed area – both close to trash barrels with the hope that they will be used and disposed of properly.
- g. Earth Day - Planters from the Lions Club were positioned at end of Braille Trail and at park bench near Bridge 4. Containers for discarded fishing line were installed.
- h. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted about the June 6th hike and will post for the Cardboard Boat race as well. She gave a big shout out to the Scouts of Troop 89 for their fishing line holders.

6. **New Business**

- a. May / June Work Party – Plans to meet at Melrose Bridge June 5th at 9AM to ensure the trails are good for the hike on Sunday, June 6th. Hike starts at 10 AM. Covid restrictions lifted right now, but we will still adhere to whatever the requirements are in place at that time.
- b. SRWA – At its April meeting, it was reported that the Watershed group sent letters of support for the Rail-Trail that is planned to connect East Windsor and Enfield with Massachusetts. They had been asked to do so but we have not – wonder if we should also support it. SRWA have been doing lots of trail work.
- c. Park Names – Discussion of the names for our various activity areas resulted in the following proposals: the filter beds to be named *Trolley Crossing*. The parking lot at the end of Cemetery Road – *Button Mill* (in honor of the first button factory on the Scantic. Information about that part of our Town history will be provided in the kiosk on site). The property located on Route 140 which was formerly owned by the Hensel Family to be called *Heritage Park*. This proposal will be sent to the Board of Selectmen for their approval.
- d. Card Board Boat Race / Duck Race – Scheduled for Sunday June 26th. The ducks will be launched at noon and our race will start at 1 PM. Folks need to start making their boats. We will need to get into the River to assure that it is open for the event.

6e. Trail Maps – Member Rebecca Talamini presented an updated trail guide showing the additional Red Tip, Blue Tip and Braille Trails. She added explanations and made it a very professional presentation. With many thanks to her for all the time and effort. In addition a QR code will be added to the guide – it will enable hikers to use their phones to track the hiking trail. The symbol will also be placed in the kiosk at the trailhead.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – Guest Tom Talamini asked that the new map with the blue tip trail be better identified to distinguish it from the River.

Adjournment: 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman
May 21, 2021