

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 - 6 PM

OSBORN HOUSE
115 SCANTIC ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, CT

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Julie Pratt	Bud Schultz	Deb Williams
Russell Williams		

GUEST:

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order** – 6:04 PM.
2. **Minutes** of August 19, 2021 meeting, Motioned, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing new.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Water is coming down but still muddy after rains, with reports of trees down. Any hopes of a fun paddle have ended because of the height of the river. It is not clear enough to be safe to see any obstacles that might be present.
 - b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing. Dr. Martin reported today that all was BLUE in the final week of testing for this summer season. She thanked her 2 interns who helped and also the Commission for keeping the testing sites cleared and accessible.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – Member Amy Larew took pictures of the State Park and showed all of the bridges that moved or floated away. Lengthy discussion took place and plans made to repair damage. Now that the water level has receded, Member Joanne Drapeau went into Trolley Crossing and picked up trash left behind and reported how the trash barrels were overflowing. Public Works empties those barrels once a week.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Steady activity.
 - e. New Maintenance Grant – DEEP posted a new maintenance grant with a deadline for application November 1st. Members will try to develop a plan either repairing what was damaged, or continuing with the newer Red and Blue trails or a combination of

both.

- f. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted a reminder that hunting season has started. Signs will be put up as a warning alerting recreationists that there is multi-use in the parks. An article on our activity did appear in the fall edition of the 5 Village Voice.

6. New Business

- a. September/October Work Party – Saturday, September 18th at 9 AM, members will meet at the Old Melrose Bridge entrance to the State Park to do a reconnaissance to ascertain what needs to be done and then will report back.
- b. SRWA – They held the full moon paddle Saturday August 21 even after the rains. It was well attended and several pictures of paddlers were in the local paper. Their next meeting is September 27.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – DEEP's Laurie Giannotti in an email agreed that others had reported similar water damage after the rains. She advised that we contact the Park Supervisor to see if there were materials that the State could provide for our clean-up work and repairs.

David Smith, a daily hiker on the yellow trail at the State Park, forwarded pictures he took of the devastation at the bridges and offered to be of some assistance when work is done if he is notified of the date and time.

Adjournment: 6:52 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman
September 17, 2021