

## **AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY - JANUARY 20, 2022 - 6 PM**

#### **VIA ZOOM**

#### **PRESENT:**

Joanne Drapeau	Ian Neill	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini	Rebecca Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden	Deb Williams
Russell Williams		

#### **ABSENT:**

Albert Grant	Amy Larew	Julie Pratt
Bud Schultz		

#### **GUEST:**

Tom Talamini

**Call to order – 6:01 PM.**

2. **Minutes** of December 16, 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 level is high with no other reports on conditions.
- b. Water testing – Regular monthly sampling by Deb Austin is ongoing. Dr. Dube has asked for help with his micro bio class. It is a new assignment for additional monthly water sampling at 4 locations: East Road, Old Melrose Bridge, Harrington Brook and Durkee Road. Dr. Kirsten Martin volunteered to do that sampling.
- c. Scantic River State Park / Filter Bed Area – It was reported that the park trails previously very muddy is now icy particularly near the kiosk. This was told by Tom Talamini and usually we have a report by volunteer Dave Smith who walks the trails daily. Member Joanne Drapeau plans to check Trolley Crossing for trash soon. The Chair mentioned a TV report on damage caused by discarded fishing line done to several birds. He was grateful that we had several receptacles for that line in our various locations and hoped that fisherman would put them to good use so we do not have injury at our sites.
- d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – The activity has slowed probably due to weather.

- e. New Year's Day Hike – There were 85 participants who signed the board with many comments that the muddy conditions stopped additional participation. Even with the lower than usual numbers we collected 147 pounds of people and pet food which was brought to the 5 Corner Cupboard. We thank member Scott Tripp and his wife Sharon for doing this each year.
- f. Arts & Culture Project – The board that was produced by this Committee was a nice addition to the hike making a great background for selfies prior to the start. Member Russell Williams did a great job producing the board and we hope it will be used many times in the future. Thanks to member Deb Williams for initiating the idea
- g. Media / Publicity – No additional postings since the hike pictures. Member Deb Talamini will host a table at the Mall Madness XIX exhibit at the Enfield Square on March 12, 2022. She will have guides and pictures and other items to publicize our efforts.

#### **6. New Business**

- a. January / February Work Party – Tom Talamini mentioned he had cable and planned to get out to Bridge #5 to cable it onto poles. That bridge is the one more likely to move in any high water and this would be an effort to prevent that again. Members Mark Whelden and Scott Tripp offered to help when the conditions were safe to do so.
- b. SRWA – Associate Member Dr. Kirsten Martin reported on the annual meeting which our members were not able to attend. They gave an accounting of the accomplishments in the various sections of the State Park and spoke of goals. Also held was a discussion on the viability of a Spring Splash this year. Perhaps that decision will be made next Monday at their next meeting. Dr. Martin also said she was involved with the Conte Refuge story project. And was connected with AMC which was looking to prepare a paddlers' map. She noted that AHRC had a great guide with such a map for our section of the Scantic River. She told SRWA members again that the E.coli equipment needs to be replaced. Once it totally breaks down there will be no testing able to be completed..

**7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Note was made that the husband of the woman who provides food at our Cardboard Race has passed away. Deb TAlamini will send a card on our behalf.

#### **Adjournment: 6:23 PM**

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman  
January 21, 2022