

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – September 15, 2022 – 6:00 PM
Osborn House
115 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT

PRESENT:

Ian Neill	Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Deb Talamini	Rebecca Talamini	Mark Whelden
Deb Williams		

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Albert Grant	Amy Larew
Julie Pratt	Bud Schultz	Scott Tripp
Russell Williams		

GUESTS:

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order.** 6:00pm

2. **Minutes** of August 18, 2022 meeting. Motion to accept minutes: Accepted, Seconded and Approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing new with budget.

4. **Added Agenda Items – 6e. Haunted Highway, 6f. Projects, 6g. Signs**

5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**

- a. River review – Level has come up a bit but is very dirty. There have been no new reports of downed trees.
- b. Water testing – Regular and E Coli testing ongoing. Dr. Martin reported that the 319 grant application for the Scantic River was accepted. It will provide money for a watershed management plan; such plan would make the Scantic eligible for federal money.
- c. Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau reported that the trash at Trolley Crossing from Labor Day was picked up. A work party cleared the Braille Trail of the downed tree and reestablished the fencing. A member of SRWA reported there being across two trail sections dead limbs over the trail. One is right before Bridge 3 and the other is near Bridge 4. Both limbs will be easy chainsaw removal. Also he reported that Bridge 3 is grown over so only a narrow path is open on the bridge (We were aware of this condition). The SRWA chainsaw crew offered to help.
- d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Recycling continues.
- e. Arts & Culture Collaboration – Report by Member Deb Williams that the craftsman has said that he prefers to do most of the work on the carving project at his workshop. He would be willing to do some of the final detail on January 1st in conjunction with the New Year's Day hike. His price is approximately \$650 with us delivering the downed tree to him.
- f. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted information that bow hunting season has started.

6. **New Business**

- a. September Work Party – Plans on hold with too many other commitments for members.
- b. SRWA – Report by our members who participated in the full moon paddle that it was a good time and they saw the full moon as they headed home.
- c. Source to Sea – Since we routinely clean up any time we are at the parks or on the river, we will not do an official Cleanup Day this year.
- d. Info Provided by Member Mark Whelden - He forwarded website on “How to get rid of Oriental Bittersweet” by SF Gate Contributor which was updated 10/3/2020. Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is an invasive non-native vine that can kill or damage trees and shrubs. A vine species, its climbing growth habit can girdle the trunks and branches of trees and grow up to 6 inches in diameter and 50 feet in length. Oriental bittersweet is a problem throughout U.S. Department of Agriculture hardiness zones 4 to 8.

RELATED ARTICLES

- [How to Cut a Bittersweet Vine Down](#)
 - [How to Kill Invasive Ground Cover Without Killing Everything Else](#)
 - [How to Kill Lily of the Valley and Trumpet Vine](#)
 - [How to Kill Ground Vines Without Harming Trees](#)
 - [Landscaping: How to Remove Briars & Vines](#)
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6.e. Haunted Highway – Member Deb Talamini signed us up for a station along the highway. The event is scheduled for Thursday October 27 from 5PM to 7 PM.

6.f. Projects – Chair Dick Sherman listed what is left on our list of projects to fulfill our plans for the park: Installing Bridge #12, making a mudwalk on the red-tip trail, and putting up the markers for that trail; working on the blue-tip trail to reestablish it and installing a long mudwalk around the pond, putting up signs and trail markers and connecting it to the Braille Trail; and of course, redoing the mudwalk at Bridge #4.

6.g. Sign – Chair has the official signs alerting trail users to the multi-functions of the park which include hunting, etc. Those signs will be installed this week to aid in the safety of all.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – Our guest said perhaps we should concentrate on what we *need* to do which is to have the trail mowed either October or November and definitely upgrade Bridge #4 as that is the trail that is most used. Also he pointed out that Bridge #10 could use some tender loving care as well.

Adjournment: 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman

September 19, 2022