

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – May 18, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Osborn House
115 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT 06088

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Albert Grant	Amy Larew
Bud Schultz	

GUEST:

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order.** 6:04PM
2. **Minutes** of April 20, 2023 regular meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported a budget balance of \$870, so enough to cover our end of the year projects.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a) River review – Water has been high, low, muddy and then cleared up.
 - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. E. coli testing will begin first week of June.
 - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau reported on checking Trolley Crossing yesterday and finding a chicken, (she never knows what to expect) but keeps on picking up trash there. Now that Bridge #4 mudwalk has been repaired, it is easier for the motorized bikers to transverse the trails!!!! There have been several encounters with them and even one where a walker was brushed by a biker. DEEP has been notified and additional signage prohibiting motorized vehicles will be posted.
 - d) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams showed rendering of the owl and confirmed it will be ready in time for the hike June 3rd. However, placing the carving will wait until fall when there will be less foliage and bushes in the way.
 - e) EW Community Grant – Check for the 3 additional signs will be hand delivered tomorrow to

the sign company to start the process for the work.

- f) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted our hike on the CT Forest and Trails website.

6. New Business

- a. May Work Party – Work party scheduled for **THIS** Sunday May 21st to start at 9 AM to mow the trail in preparation for the hike. Needed is someone to do point for the DR mower to ensure nothing is in front that would do damage and then follow up is necessary to make sure mower can move around the curves. Also needed people to prune and cut back any vines.
- b. SRWA – Next meeting will be **MONDAY** MAY 22 IN PERSON!!!! It will be at E. W. Historical Society Library 115 Scantic Road, East Windsor starting at 7 PM. All are welcome.
- c. New Grant – During follow up call, questions were asked to clarify whether only meeting once a month was adequate and answered that we also have kiosk postings to alert us to issues or phone and text messages from hikers. They inquired as to the amount of our budget, this was reported and its purposes and uses told. They questioned our limitations because of age and were told that we have partnered with Scouts and Leos to help with projects. Asked how we supported these youth groups and told of Eagle project to contain old fishing line. These receptacles were such a great help in keeping the line from going into the river and doing harm to fish life that we funded additional receptacles. Then the process and timeline was explained, so by mid-June we should know if we are awarded a grant and the amount if so chosen. It will be accepted by Amy O'Toole as our financial agent and a separate budget line designated.
- d. Cardboard Boat Race / BMX Duck Race – Deb Talamini confirmed the July 9th date, still hoping for no rain and clean water and BOATS!!!
- e. Meeting Venue – Due to conflicts with other events, we will be meeting at Reservoir Park at 5:30 PM for our June and July meetings. Official cancellations and notices will be made.
- f. Town's Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment Policy- was sent to all members of the Commission. The 10 in attendance signed acknowledgement. Effort to secure the other 3 signatures will be made.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – It was brought up that a while ago, Selectman Alan Baker mentioned grant funds being available for AHRC projects and it was a considerable amount available. We could use that funding to put docking at Bridge #4 mudwalk and also in the very wet area in the planned Blue Tip Trail. This docking is similar material to what was used at Major Donnelly Park in South Windsor. Questions as to why we haven't heard anything further were asked and we hope to get an answer,

Adjournment: 6:53pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman May 19, 2023