

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – September 21, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Osborn House
117 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT 06088

PRESENT:

Albert Grant	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden
Deb Williams	Russell Williams

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Rebecca Davis
Amy Larew	Ian Neill
Bud Schultz	

GUEST:

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order.** 5:30 PM
2. **Minutes** of August 17, 2023 special meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported \$356.18 was paid from our the budget to cover the balance of the park benches. Then the Grass Roots line item was closed out after the \$3,230 from Grass Roots award was spent on the benches.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a) River review – Water is still brownish. Reports of even more trees into the river.
 - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. E. coli testing has ended for this season, with thanks to Dr. Martin for all her efforts and reporting. Trees that fell on the trail on Route 140 were cut up by member Mark Whelden. The E. coli signs were taken down and stored.
 - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – There was a new report of another downed tree about 7-8 minutes south of Bridge #7. It was said to be about 12 inches around. It will be part of a trail clean up event. Member Deb Talamini has not heard from DEEP regarding the remediation needed at beginning of the trail, where orange caution tape was placed. Member Joanne Drapeau placed a mum at the sign at Trolley Crossing Park. She stated 2 small trees are still doing well.

- d) Braille Trail – The 4 additional signs are here and one was displayed at the meeting. Now we need the fence erected to hang the signs on. The vines along the fence at the bridge were removed today and more tailings are needed to keep the grass from growing up through the road material.
- e) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams suggested the winner of the naming contest be invited to attend when we reveal the owl. A sign with its name, GAIA, has been made. Discussion ensued regarding the pole that the owl will sit upon and how it will be secured and erected.
- f) Grass Roots Grant – The bench parts have arrived and one bench was put together to see if they can be made on site and they can. Four benches will be placed along the yellow tip trail; 2 more will be placed on the blue tip trail when that is finished. It is anticipated that those 4 benches will be in place in time for the hike on New Year's Day.
- f) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini has posted pictures from the full moon paddle. She plans to alert readers to the new rules for what can be recycled and hopefully that will keep the river cleaner with less discards.

NewBusiness

- a. September Work Party – September 30 starting at 9 is still the work date. With the status of the river unknown, it might become a trail maintenance day with the DR mower put into operation to do a good fall clean-up. The downed tree from Bridge #7 will be taken care of. At the same time, if anything still needs to be done on the Braille Trail, that too will be addressed. Now we hope for good weather.
- b. SRWA – Full Moon Paddle was a success with over 50 craft taking part, on a perfect night for a paddle. SWRA's next meeting will be Monday September 25, at the Melrose School House starting at 7pm. All are welcome.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – None.

Adjournment: 6:47pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman September 22, 2023