

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY – October 19, 2023 – 6:00 PM**  
Osborn House  
115 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT 06088

**PRESENT:**

Rebecca Davis	Joanne Drapeau
Albie Grant	Barbara Sherman
Dick Sherman	Deb Talamini
Scott Tripp	Mark Whelden
Deb Williams	Russell Williams

**ABSENT:**

Amy Larew	Ian Neill
Bud Schultz	

**GUEST:**

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order.** 6:01 PM
2. **Minutes** of September 21, 2023 regular meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini confirmed ARPA funds of \$25,000 are available to us.
4. **Added Agenda Items – 6. c) Membership.**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a) River review – Water is level and clear at the moment with more rain expected this weekend. .
  - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. .
  - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau stated she checks Trolley Crossing Park on Mondays and so far It is doing well. Members Scott Tripp and Rebecca Davis together with volunteers Nothing has been done as of this time by DEEP to remove or remediate the issue of the fallen tree at the very beginning of the trail. Our placed orange tape remains there as a safety measure. Tom Talamini and Dave Smith worked to remove the downed 16-18” tree at Bridge 7 and a couple of smaller ones that had also fallen, thereby clearing the trail. Additionally, they once again repositioned Bridges 5 and 6 and worked to straighten out Bridge 4 mudwalk for the umpteenth time. Discussion ensued about the docking that could be put at the site to replace the mudwalk. Member Deb Talamini had researched the product and had an estimate of \$24,000 based on the sketch from DEEP engineer, but was told there was to be a price increase shortly. She had held a three way conversation to include Marcella Hube. Although the DEEP had said they would put the project on their list – time and tide has several times moved the

mudwalk and necessitated another day of repair. It is getting old and we are getting tired. Question was do we continue to wait for the State or go forward. Deb was asked to check to see if there was another company who could provide the same type product at a lesser cost. MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED: TO UTILIZE THE ARPA FUNDS TO MAKE A PERMANENT STRUCTURE FOR BRIDGE #4. MOTION PASSED.

- d) BrailleTrail – The additional 80 feet of fencing has been installed with work by Members Mark Whelden and Dick and Barbara Sherman. The signs will be positioned as soon as the weather allows. .
- e) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams still has the owl and there was much discussion on how and where and when to position it. All hope it will be in time for the New Year's Day hike.
- f) Grass Roots Grant – The already constructed bench will replace the bench near Bridge 3 and the other still unassembled ones will be brought to their spots and erected. See work party details.
- g) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted that we will have a table at the Haunted Highway.

#### **New Business**

- a. October / November Work Party – October 29 starting at 9 group will meet to bring benches to their sites and assemble them. .
  - b. SRWA – The next meeting is Monday October 30 at the Melrose School House starting at 7pm. All are welcome. The Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28 at Warehouse Point Library with refreshments served from 6:30 PM and the speaker at 7:00 PM with business conducted as well.
- 6. c. Membership** – Member Debra Williams questioned why we still have people listed as members on the roster but they don't attend meetings or help on projects. Chair said he will contact those who are inactive and check on their intentions. Deb asked if we could reach out to a younger person (high school perhaps) and it was a definite yes to that.

#### **7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – None.

**Adjournment: 7:35pm**

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman October 23, 2023**