

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY – November 16, 2023 – 6:00 PM  
Osborn House  
117 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT 06088**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Rebecca Davis	Albie Grant
Amy Larew	Ian Neill
Bud Schultz	

**GUEST:**

Leroy Paige	Tom Talamini
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1. **Call to order.** 6:00 PM Chair acknowledged Leroy Paige and the Commission members welcomed him after introducing themselves.
2. **Minutes** of October 19, 2023 regular meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini said nothing new this month. .
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a) River review – Water is staying in the banks but it was noted that the vernal pools seem higher. There seems to be more water off the trails perhaps because of ground saturation.
  - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. .
  - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau spoke of plans for a plaque that will go on the bench at Trolley Crossing Park. It is expected to be in place for the holidays. Member Deb Talamini read the email from DEEP regarding our plans to find a more permanent solution to the issue at Bridge #4 – that mudwalk is constantly being impacted by flood waters. There was lengthy discussion about options and ‘band-aid’ cures hoping that the DEEP would not close the trail going forward. After reading the DEEP response to our idea of docking material to be a solution, the motion to use our funds for that purpose was rescinded. It was acknowledged that DEEP did a great job remediating the area at the beginning of the trail where the large tree fell and took away a considerable portion of the bank. Our temporary fencing and wood will be recovered from DEEP office in Stafford in case we need it in the future.
  - d) Braille Trail – With the additional 80 feet of fencing having been installed, three new signs were put into place. The bench was also placed at the end of that trail.

- e) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams said the owl had a crack but the carver assured her that was natural to the drying process and he offered a remedy. It will be prepared for placement after being sealed.
- f) Grass Roots Grant – Three benches were erected along the yellow tip trail. The fourth one will be placed soon. The last 2 will go on the blue tip trail when that is completed.
- g) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini put out a blast regarding DEEP's rerouting of the trail. Soon she will post our first day hike information.

### **New Business**

- a. November/December Work Party – On Sunday November 19 starting at 9 at Melrose Bridge, the group will meet to finalize location of the owl. Also some will bring the 4<sup>th</sup> bench to its site and perhaps anchor the others. Please, come help.

Going forward the following Sunday November 26, another work party to install the owl will take place with members and volunteers again meeting at Melrose Bridge at 9 AM.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will keep scheduling a work party on the following Sundays, December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> until the mission is accomplished. Emails will be sent out to confirm. All hands are welcome to participate.

- b. SRWA – Their Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28 at Warehouse Point Library with refreshments served from 6:30 PM and the speaker by video conferencing will begin at 7:00 PM. Business will be conducted following the presentation.

**Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Leroy Paige is an Enfield resident and would like to join the Commission with Associate status. He is a regular trail walker and would be a valuable asset in reporting back conditions.

Guest Tom Talamini gave his opinion on Bridge #4 as he has chased that mudwalk many times and hopes to find a better solution to the pallets that are there currently.

A question was asked about a portable toilet for the hike and that will be secured.

Correspondence from DEEP is attached.

**Adjournment: 7:30pm**

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, November 17, 2023**

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• **Attachment:** From: "Hube, Marcella" <Marcella.Hube@ct.gov>  
Date: November 2, 2023 at 3:41:04 PM EDT  
To: "Debbie T." <talamini@cox.net>  
Subject: RE: East Windsor

Good afternoon,

Apologies for the delay in response I spoke more with the management team regarding the reoccurring issues of mud walk 4. The state would require an extensive and extended review of the area before making such an investment of infrastructure within the flood plain. The goals and objectives of the Scantic River state park is first to preserve the flood boundary open space of the river, followed by providing appropriate recreational amenities such as trails where possible. A brief review of the area's topography, and the history of seasonal flooding DEEP would likely consider closure of the trail segment, shifting efforts to focus on opening and maintaining the upland trails.

As for the re-route at the kiosk, the trail crew and I completed that work today. I have the snow fence and 4x4s if you'd like to schedule a day to meet so you can keep it available for future use. I truly appreciate your group jumping into action to secure that hazard.

The trail crew also helped me flag a re-route beyond bridge 10 up and around the hill. This will take us alot of muscle to complete and unfortunately the trail crew will be out of hours in the next few weeks. As Shenipsit's resources allow I would like to continue to work together in finding sustainable alternatives to some of the troublesome sections of the trails.

**Marcella Hube**

Park and Recreation Supervisor II

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Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation-State Parks Division

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