

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

PRESENT:

Rebecca Davis	Joanne Drapeau
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Deb Talamini	Scott Tripp
Deb Williams	Russell Williams

ABSENT:

Albie Grant	Amy Larew
Ian Neill	Bud Schultz
Mark Whelden	

GUEST:

Leroy Paige	Tom Talamini
-------------	--------------

1. **Call to order.** 6:04 PM
2. **Minutes** of November 16, 2023 regular meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini noted check for Portable Sanitary Facility was paid. Budget request for 2024-2025 was slightly higher due to increase in reagent costs.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a) River review – Water is level slowly going down after being out of its banks.
 - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues.
 - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau showed pictures of decorated trees at Trolley Crossing Park sign and of the bench with the plaque thanking Ray Jones for all his work there. Reports from several daily hikers told of Bridge #6 floating due to the high water, Bridge #8 still in place but with a flooded area to the south of it. Bridge #4 / mudwalk was moved again and work will need to be done on it before the hike. Bridge #5 will need to be cabled because of its potential to move. High water even lifted one of the newly installed benches.
 - d) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams wrote an article for the 5 Village Voice telling about the owl and its name, etc.
 - e) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted about the owl and about our hike. The hike was also listed in the DEEP brochure along with the other hikes around the state. She will post again about the bench in thanks to Ray Jones for

his work at Trolley Crossing Park..

New Business

- a. December Work Party – This Saturday December 23rd starting at 9, group will meet at Melrose Bridge trailhead. The goal is to remedy Bridge #4 in time for the hike with hopes that the forecasted rain next week will not do further movement. With time permitting, Bridge #5 will be cabled. Please come and help if you can.
 - b. SRWA – No report on this at this time.
 - c. New Year's Day Hike – It was confirmed that the portable sanitary facility, the warming fire, the sign-in board, the hot cocoa, etc are all set for the event.
7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Deb Talamini and Deb Williams received emails from Melissa Maltese regarding a new DEEP grant opening and both agreed to meet with her regarding applying for funds. Guest Leroy Paige submitted an application to become an associate member (he lives in Enfield but is a frequent hiker of our trails). It was shared that Mark Whelden is recovering from a fall and all send good wishes for speed in that process.

Adjournment: 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman, December 22, 2023