

## AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THURSDAY - March 21, 2019 *SPECIAL MEETING* WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Al Floyd	Julie Pratt
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman
Dick Sullivan	Sue Gaffney Sullivan
Debbie Talamini	Mark Whelden

#### **ABSENT:**

Joanne Drapeau	Albert Grant
Rebecca Talamini	Tom Talamini
Scott Tripp	

1. **Call to order** at 6:32pm and attendance
2. **Minutes** of February 21, 2019 meeting approved and seconded.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Nothing to report.
4. **Added Agenda Items** - none
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a. River review – More high water, lots of flooding and lots of trees down!
  - b. Water testing – Regular testing ongoing . Another invitation received to an information and funding session about water testing at University of St. Joseph with Dr. Martin's group on Tuesday March 26 at 3pm. Also the invoice for E. coli testing reagents totaling \$1,112.08 was presented for payment.
  - c. Filter Bed Area – appears to be kept up. Scantic River State Park Trail – Attempt to walk the trails on Sunday March 17 was futile with even the first bridge under water. Additional repair work on the bridges will need to be done together with our other completion projects. We will need extra dry days going forward.
  - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Members have been kept busy.
  - e. Banner – Member Rebecca provided costs and drafts of the 2 banners with members making some comments and suggestions on design. We will table decision and await answers to some questions posed.
  - f. Membership – Vacancies still need to be filled.
  - f. Social Media / Publicity – Several postings on conditions of the trails. We are now on the list of CT Trails Day hikes, it being scheduled for Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 – 11 am.

## 6. New Business

- a. March Work Party – Member Mark will try to do some cutback to help get materials needed onto the red tip trail, but will need area to dry out. He will not be available most of April.
- b. CT River Conservancy held a "Trash Talk" in South Windsor - Member Mark attended the session at the CT Brewing Company. It was a legislation meeting regarding the amount of plastic pollution there is. Nip bottles make up 30% of the waste found in the waters. There are questions as to how we can limit the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam containers. Mark also attended the 'Fish, fish, fish' talk and heard that alewives are down to 10% of their normal population. This brings questions that commercial fishing is causing young females to breed too soon. There were several discussions and ideas passed around as to effects of water quality on the fish population. More talks are coming up.
- c. SRWA – March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was attended by Member Albie Grant and he sent a report that the SOP issued by Dr. Martin on the protocols of water sampling had been adopted. He reminded us that the Spring Splash was March 30.

## 7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – Our partners sent the following event information:

- **From CT Rivers Alliance : Friday March 22, 9:00 am – 10:15 am is World Water Day**. Come celebrate Connecticut's water at the Legislative Office Building. For more information see the website of CT Fund for the Environment / Save The Sound. (CT WQS Webpage). Also look for a message from Rivers Alliance next week with more information.
- **April 5** is the due date for comments on **Connecticut's Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. Under the Clean Water Act, these standards are the basis for permitting and other programs protecting state waters. As required by law, DEEP is initiating a review of the present state WQS to evaluate the need to update or revise them. There is more information on the CT WQS webpage.
- **April 14 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Bluegrass Sunday at Woodbury Brewing Company to benefit Rivers Alliance**. The band will donate \$100 to Rivers Alliance of Connecticut to support their vital work. No cover charge. Enjoy food, drink and fellowship.
- Join CT River Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm** at deKoven House, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT to learn about the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail (CRPT), and celebrate recent accomplishments in trail development.

## 8. Adjournment: 7:14pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman  
March 22, 2019