

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY – July 20, 2023 – 5:30 PM
East Windsor Park
Reservoir Avenue, East Windsor, CT 06088

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Rebecca Davis	Amy Larew
Ian Neill	Bud Schultz

1. **Call to order.** 5:36 PM
2. **Minutes** of June 15, 2023 special meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini will report on our the budget next meeting.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a) River review – Water is high and dark. Recent storms have brought down numerous trees into the river.
 - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. E. coli testing this week shows red from Somers all the way to Trolley Crossing, after a week's worth of rain.
 - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau reported on cleaning up lots of cigarette butts at Trolley Crossing. But on the positive side, the Department of Public Works was be able to fill some of the many pot holes. In fact, she saw some workers and personally thanked them. Joanne and her son planted 2 arborvitae and a floral arrangement at the sign which look really nice. The SRSP trails are a mess after the rains, with a gigantic tree down right after the kiosk. DEEP has been notified and members placed red hazard fencing to block off the area. Members Rebecca, Scott and Deb together with Tom Talamini and Carl Sampson from SRWA put Bridge #4 back in order after the flooding moved it yet again. Another large tree between Bridges 7 and 8 was cut up and moved and there are more downed trees after Bridge 4 that need removal.

- d) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams said the contest to name the owl has begun. There are voting boxes at Town Hall as well as Park & Rec, with the winner being selected on National Night Out. The winner will earn Tshirts from Park & Rec and AHRC, as well as bragging rights!!!
- e) Grass Roots Fund Grant – The purchase order is in for 6 benches, similar to the one at 5 Corner Cupboard. They will be made of recycled plastic, so no maintenance and brown in color, same color as the State uses. Timeframe is 9-10 weeks for delivery.
- f) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini has been posting E. coli results.

NewBusiness

- a. July Work Party – A work party will be needed to clear a path in the river and will be scheduled as time and conditions warrant.
- b. SRWA – Full Moon Paddle is slated for Friday, September 1st. Their next meeting will be Monday July 31, at the Melrose School House starting at 7pm . All are welcome.
- c. Cardboard Boat Race / BMX Duck Race – Discussion took place regarding the E. coli, the continuing storms and the conditions of the river with the downed trees. With all of the factors working against us, reluctantly the Commission members decided we needed to cancel the race for this year. BMX members would be told that we cannot assist them in their fundraiser.

7. Public input / Questions / Correspondence – None.

Adjournment: 6:11pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman July 21, 2023