

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY – August 17, 2023 – 5:30 PM**  
East Windsor Park  
Reservoir Avenue, East Windsor, CT 06088

**PRESENT:**

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Joanne Drapeau   | Rebecca Davis |
| Barbara Sherman  | Dick Sherman  |
| Deb Talamini     | Scott Tripp   |
| Mark Whelden     | Deb Williams  |
| Russell Williams |               |

**ABSENT:**

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Albert Grant | Amy Larew   |
| Ian Neill    | Bud Schultz |

1. **Call to order.** 5:30 PM
2. **Minutes** of July 20, 2023 special meeting. Motioned to Accept, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported on our the budget balances for fiscal year 2023-2024. We started with \$4,200 for the town budget; our Donation account carried over \$820.32, and there is \$756.12 left in the Grant account (Greater Together). There is another Grant of \$3,230 from Grass Roots award.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – None.
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
  - a) River review – Water is still brown. Reports of even more trees into the river.
  - b) Water testing – Regular monthly testing continues. E. coli testing results will be posted on the Town's website per request from Dr. Martin. Trail on Route 140 needs to be remediated in order to keep testing that site clear and useable. Plans are in the works for that task.
  - c) Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Vice Chair Rebecca Davis reported on work done to cut up downed tree south of Bridge #7. Try as they might, 4 volunteers were not able to totally clear the widow maker; it is still hung up but no longer impacting the trail. Member Deb Talamini has been emailing with DEEP regarding the remediation needed at beginning of the trail, where orange caution tape was placed. DEEP says the trail will be rerouted in early fall near the teepee at Bridge #10. However, Deb's questions about the remedies for Bridge #4 were not addressed and there are many unanswered questions. We are a Town committee of volunteers overseeing trails in a State Park and we need guidance as to what we are allowed to do and what help the State will provide on this particular mudwalk

issue. Member Joanne Drapeau reported lots of mosquitoes and one raccoon spotted at Trolley Crossing Park. She stated 2 small trees are doing well but the flowersplantings will need to be replaced and suggested mums for near the sign.

- d) Arts & Culture Collaboration – Member Deb Williams said the winning name for the owl is GAIA, who was the Greek goddess of nature. The winner will earn Tshirts from Park & Rec and AHRC, as well as bragging rights!!!
- e) Cardboard Boat Race – Member Deb Talamini told of 9 boats entered into the race, not all paid the \$10 registration fee but we still were able to donate \$100 to 5 Corner Cupboard with the added funds from herself. (We thank her for that). The last minute relocation of the race site turned out to be a great idea and it may be our permanent spot going forward. Many thanks to Park & Rec for their help.
- f) Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini has been posting local happening and will share Full Moon paddle info..

### **NewBusiness**

- a. August Work Party – Question about scheduling a work party to clear river for a fun paddle led to date of **September 30 starting at 9 going to noon** (or 1PM the latest, hopefully). Also a date will be needed to install the extended fencing for the additional Braille signs, maybe after some of the foliage has gone by.
  - b. SRWA – Full Moon Paddle is slated for Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> with registration starting at 5:30 pm. It's next meeting will be Monday September 25, at the Melrose School House starting at 7pm. All are welcome.
7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Barbara Sabonis was very thankful for the picnic table and trash barrel placed at the Landing; would hope for another one.

**Adjournment: 6:04pm**

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman August 18, 2023**