

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY – July 21, 2022 – 5:30 PM
East Windsor Town Park
Reservoir Avenue, Broad Brook, CT

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Amy Larew	Ian Neill	Julie Pratt
Bud Schultz	Russell Williams	

GUESTS:

Tom Talamini

1. **Call to order.** 5:32pm
2. **Minutes** of June 16, 2022 meeting. Motion to accept minutes: Accepted, Seconded and Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Deb Talamini reported we have started a new fiscal year with a new budget.
4. **Added Agenda Items** – 6c. **Text chain request for impromptu work parties**
5. **On-Going Business / Old Business**
 - a. River review – Level is low and would be a perfect time for tree removal except the E coli level is too high. .
 - b. Water testing – Regular testing and E. coli testing continuing. After rains, Trolley Crossing last week was RED for the first time this year and Route 140 was YELLOW after weeks of all BLUE. However, the report for this week still has Trolley Crossing, as well Broad Brook Stream at East Road with a RED reading (Durkey Road & Somersmill Pond in Somers as well). Cemetery Road/Omelia Bridge, Ketch Brook on Rye Street and Powder Hollow all showed YELLOW.
 - c. Scantic River State Park / Trolley Crossing – Member Joanne Drapeau reported an abandoned barbeque grill to the Highway Department and they removed it. She questioned when the sign denoting the park as “Trolley Crossing” would be forthcoming and we hope the answer is soon.
 - d. Bottle / Can Receptacle – Recycling continues.
 - e. Cardboard Boat Race – Report by Treasurer Deb Talamini that she presented the proceeds from the Boat Race to the 5 Corner Cupboard. She made several pleas to the many spectators that we need new boats next year to continue this event as 2 of the old tried and true floaters had to be burned and will not be back next year. Can't race without

boats. Again the kids were cheered on by the spectators and it is fun to watch them compete.

- f. Arts & Culture Collaboration – Report by Member Deb Williams that several carvers were contacted and there is a great prospect who is willing to come to the park and see if there is a suitable downed tree that can be used. We were all excited to hear his ideas and potential suggestions.
- g. Social Media / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini posted about the cardboard boat race.

6. New Business

- a. July/ August Work Party – Project would be to remove downed trees just south of the race starting point but we need the bacteria level and the heat to cooperate. When that happens a work party will be done.
- b. SRWA – Full moon paddle has been scheduled for September 10th at Somersmill Pond; more info to follow. Member Deb Talamini said she had paddled Somersmill Pond 2 weeks ago and it was lovely.
- c. **Text chain request** – Member Deb Williams asked if an impromptu work party was called when conditions were perfect, if a text chain rather than email be produced with the details. It was agreed that that was more than doable.

- 7. **Public input / Questions / Correspondence** – Guest Tom Talamini stated that there was definitely more cheering for our boat race than the duck race and that going forward we should start talking up the need to build a boat before we usually announce the date in late June.

Correspondence included a thank you from University of St. Joseph for our continued support of the water testing program.

Connecticut River Conservancy thanked us for the donation of \$75. In a separate correspondence they asked for help pulling invasive water chestnut plants from the local coves. Member Deb Talamini has already helped at one site.

Five Corner Cupboard food pantry sent a letter of thanks for the kind donation of \$50 representing the proceeds of the cardboard race. It will be put to good use in easing the burden of hunger for many.

Sadly, vandalism is taking place at the Cemetery Road parking area which is one of our 'parks'. It started small but now has increased with spray paint on the bench and plexiglass at the kiosk and flowing out of the area onto local traffic signs as well.

Adjournment: 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman

July 21, 2022