



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

December 3, 2015, 6 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jans 2016 AT 9:30 AM/PM
Kull N. G. [Signature]
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Tom Bowen, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management & Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Dan Mullins, Waterford resident; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme First Selectman.

Excused: Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Fran Violante, Town of Waterford.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Landers made a motion to seat board alternates Peter Harris and Ralph Bates, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of November 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Peter Harris. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. There were no expenses in November. Don will apply for a debit card to be used for NRWC business and necessary purchases. Ruth Savalle made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy has updated content on the website, including revising the partner page and updating several of the water quality improvement projects. Judy accompanied East Lyme Cub Scout Pack 7 to Latimer Brook by St. Mathias Church on November 14th. RBV has wrapped up for the year. We collected three samples from Latimer Brook. The East Lyme Conservation Commission collected two samples from Cranberry Meadow Brook for us. Judy was notified that the application we submitted to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for the watershed plan update has



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been approved. She prepared an application to the Society of Women Environmental Professionals – Connecticut Chapter for the purchase of a water level logger for Latimer Brook, so we can continue to collect discharge data at that site.

6. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: Rick Kanter reported that the Niantic River was opened for scalloping as of December 1st. Peter Harris added that shellfishing permits were selling well and permit-holders were reporting good results.
- b. Watershed Signs: There has been no activity on this item at this time.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila provided an overview of the water quality monitoring program for guest Mark Nickerson, and reviewed the results of the November water sampling. He noted that nitrate levels dropped considerably from October levels. He reported that he replenished the fluid in the DO sensor of the YSI meter prior to sampling. John Jasper reviewed the water quality data relative to the study the UConn environmental engineering students are conducting, and shared a draft of the report the students have been preparing. He noted that while at the Latimer Brook/Cranberry Meadow Brook confluence, Latimer Brook contributes approximately 2/3 of the stream volume, based on data we have collected, Cranberry Meadow Brook appears to contribute approximately 50% more of the nitrate load than Latimer Brook. Directors discussed contacting the East Lyme Conservation Commission and Agriculture Subcommittee to discuss addressing potential nitrate sources in the Cranberry Meadow Brook watershed. Don Danila will try to get us on the Conservation Commission's agenda for the January or February 2016 meetings. Judy noted that the Monitoring Subcommittee is due to meet, and proposed meeting prior to the January 2016 Board of Directors meeting. Subcommittee members concurred.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: Judy previously reported her activities in the Coordinator's Report. Don Danila reported that he organized a clean-up of Latimer Brook behind Flanders IGA, in conjunction with Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills and Laura Ashburn and her East Lyme High School students. Rick Kanter suggested that would be a good location for an outreach/awareness sign. Mark Nickerson noted that protection of the wetlands at that site was a condition of the zoning approval, and would be willing to help with installing signage. Peter Harris commented that WELSCO has proposed to submit an article or Letter to the Editor to *The Day* regarding the effects of spring fertilization on water quality. John Jasper noted that we have observed spring and fall peaks in nitrate levels that could be related to fertilizer use.



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- c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: This item was previously discussed in the Coordinator's report. Tom Bowen provided comments and guidance regarding the Kraft/Rand-Whitney letter, which Judy will incorporate.
 - d. Audit Committee: The Audit Committee will meet after the beginning of 2016.
 - e. Membership Subcommittee: Discussion was deferred to the January 2016 meeting.
8. New Business:
- a. Review and Approval of 2016 meeting schedule: Directors reviewed the proposed 2016 meeting schedule. Ruth Savalle made a motion to accept the schedule as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion was accepted.
 - b. Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills Gala: Rick Kanter noted that the annual fund raiser is scheduled for December 4th if anyone is interested in attending. Rick also noted that CPTV recently aired a program about combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Hartford. (This program can be viewed on <http://ctwaterworks.org/>).
9. Public Comments: None
10. Next meeting: January 7, 2016, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.
11. Adjourn: John Jasper made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 PM, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rondeau".

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

