



# Niantic River Watershed Committee

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## Minutes

**Niantic River Watershed Committee**

**Monitoring Subcommittee Meeting**

**May 7, 2015, 5 - 6 pm**

**East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1**

**108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT**

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Jan 5 2016 AT 9:30 AM/PM  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, Maureen Fitzgerald, John Jasper, Don Landers, Aaron Pauley, Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

1. Welcome - Watershed Coordinator Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 5:08 pm.
2. Review of January 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved by consensus.
3. Water Quality Monitoring:
  - a. Latimer Brook Monitoring Program update - Don Danila reviewed the water quality monitoring program. He noted that we have 3 years of data, and the data has been pretty consistent. There was brief discussion regarding whether we need to continue to monitor monthly. Subcommittee members agreed we should try to target some wet weather sampling. Don Landers noted that Craig Tobias at UConn-Avery Point has offered to do isotopic analysis of our nitrate samples to determine the nitrogen source (natural, manufactured, manure/septic effluent, etc.). Maureen noted that she conducts water quality sampling in Waterford in June and October. It would be interesting to compare her results with ours to see if/how they line up. John Jasper stated that he has been in touch with Dr. Kristine Kirchoff at UConn (Storrs) about assisting a student of hers with a study of Latimer Brook. He has also discussed assisting a Connecticut College student with a research project.
  - b. River Bioassessment for Volunteers (RBV) – In spite of low water levels through the summer and fall, the streams we sampled last fall did pretty well.
  - c. Latimer Brook Streamwalks – Streamwalks of Latimer Brook were completed in October and December 2014. Of note were numerous areas with degraded riparian buffers, large trees across the stream and small cobble dams that appeared to have been built by nearby property owners. Judy and Don D. both spoke with DEEP fisheries staff about the small cobble dams and the trees. The consensus was that the trees were not a problem unless they backed up water to the point of causing flooding, bank failure or property damages. However, the cobble dams could create fish passage problems and might need to be assessed.



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- d. Data assessment/evaluation/report – The UConn environmental engineering student will be using water quality and stream temperature data from Latimer and Cranberry Meadow Brooks. Judy will continue to put together the one page report for distribution at outreach events. Should we consider preparing a more in-depth report as well? Judy shared a copy of the Salmon River Watershed report for review.
  - e. Draft QAPP – The QAPP is approximately half written. Judy would appreciate any assistance with its completion.
- 4. Partner Reports: None.
  - 5. Other Business: No other business was brought forth for discussion.
  - 6. Next meeting: To be determined.
  - 7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator