



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

September 3, 2015, 6 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Sept 24, 2015 AT 3:45 AM/PM
Karen Galbraith
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Tom Bowen, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Fran Violante, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Maureen Fitzgerald, Town of Waterford; Dan Mullins; Waterford resident; Aaron Pauley, Niantic resident.

Excused: Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Danila made a motion to seat Fran Violante and Ralph Bates, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of August 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. A balance of \$17,028.92 is being managed by ECCD. A balance of \$598.94 is in the NRWC account. Dave Turner made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes. Don Danila stated that a request to Dominion Foundation to authorize the transfer of the Dominion funds from ECCD to NRWC has not yet been approved. Don Landers will follow up. Judy requested and received permission to use funds in the water quality monitoring budget to purchase a banner for outreach events.
 - a. Audit Subcommittee: Don Danila commented that at last month's meeting, the Board voted to form an Audit Subcommittee. Ralph Bates and Don Landers have offered to serve on the subcommittee. Rick Kanter offered to serve on the Audit Subcommittee as well.

5. Coordinator's Report: Judy was guest on Suzanne Thompson's Connecticut Outdoors radio program on August 11th. Judy presented a program on stormwater management practices to the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources on August 12th. RBV workshops were held on Aug. 28th and 29th. Judy will be reviewing the monitoring sites over the next few weeks. She will also be contacting the East Lyme cub scouts to see if they want to sample Latimer Brook at St Matthias Church again this year. Judy met with school superintendent Jeff Newton, facilities manager Ted Hunt, Victor Benni, East Lyme Town Engineer, and Lisa Vaudreille, an East Lyme elementary school teacher, on August 17th to discuss the bio-retention garden at East Lyme High School. The informational sign for the Niantic tree filter project in has been ordered and should arrive by the end of September. Judy met with Abbie Piersall, the new Waterford town planner, regarding the status of the Mago Point redevelopment project. The Town is proposing to include the tree filters in the central parking lot design. A spring 2016 installation is still proposed. Don Danila commented that, as a result of changes in the RBV program, the East Lyme Conservation Commission may be available to do RBV sampling at some different sites this year in the Niantic watershed. Don Landers thanked Fran Violante, Ruth Savalle, Ralph Bates and Judy Rondeau for manning the booth at this year's Celebrate East Lyme Day.

6. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: Judy distributed drafts of a thank you letter to Welles Gilmartin and an appeal letter for Latimer Brook stream gauge funding to Kraft Corp. for directors to review. Judy will distribute the letter s via email for further discussion/ revision. Dan Mullins commented that United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI) provides donations to environmental organizations. Directors discussed the upcoming public meeting being held by the Army National Guard regarding Stone Ranch and Camp Niantic, particularly regarding a proposed 250 foot wide non-encroachment zone in the Niantic River along the Camp Niantic river frontage. Directors are not in favor of any restrictions that would limit public access for shellfishing and recreation or that would disturb or destroy habitat, especially bottom habitat. Don Danila stated he intends to attend the meeting and is willing to speak on behalf of NRWC. Rick Kanter made a motion to authorize Don to speak on behalf of NRWC, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
- b. Watershed Signs: Eric Thomas commented that the placement of signs seems to depend on what DOT department handles the encroachment permit, and suggested that discussion between town leaders and DOT might expedite the process. Maureen Fitzgerald suggested that as part of mitigation requirements relating to roadway improvements, DOT might include the installation of the watershed signs. Don Landers stated that a sign has been installed at the entrance to the Niantic River for boaters, with information on river navigation, the pump out boat, and so on.
- c. Membership: Directors discussed the establishment of members and expressed the need to organize and conduct a membership drive. Don Landers suggested the formation of a membership subcommittee to research the development of

membership and develop a membership campaign. Fran Violante, Ruth Savalle and Aaron Pauley offered to serve on the subcommittee.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the August water sampling results. With assistance from the Millstone Environmental Lab, he has resolved calibration issues with the new pH probe. Don thanked Tom Bowen for disposing of used nitrate solution at the Montville hazardous waste collection.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: John Jasper commented on the growing body of presentations NRWC members have prepared in the last few years, some of which have been shared with colleagues at Yale, Connecticut College and University of Connecticut. John stated that he continues to work with the UConn Environmental Engineering department professor and student on the analysis of Latimer Brook water quality data. This is a term project which should be completed by the end of fall term. Directors discussed whether it was time to plan another watershed summit. This item will be placed on next month's agenda for discussion. Dave Turner asked if the teacher loan kits were being requested and suggested contacting the school superintendents in the four towns to advertise among teachers. Judy stated that a Waterford High School teacher has requested the kit in October.
- c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Rick Kanter suggested the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut as a possible funding source through their newly established environmental grant program. Rick has arranged to meet with CFECT to discuss further. Don Landers and Chris Tomichek expressed interest in meeting with them as well. CFECT has an open grant round and is accepting letters of intent through September 15th. Directors discussed various possible grant projects. Judy will review the RFP and prepare a letter of intent. Ralph Bates discussed a CT DEEP grant for municipalities for the control of invasive aquatic species.

8. New Business:

- a. Watershed Plan update proposal for 2015 CWA §319 grant round: Directors discussed the possibility of applying for a CWA §319 grant through DEEP to update the NRWPP.

9. Public Comments: Maureen Fitzgerald complimented the Committee on recent activities.

10. Next meeting: October 1, 2015, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

11. Adjourn: Don Danila made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator