



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

**Minutes
NRWC Board of Directors
January 7, 2016, 6 PM
East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1
108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.**

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jan 29 2016 AT 3:30 AM PM
Allen Galbo, AR
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 & Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; 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 Environmental Planner; Dan Mullins, ECCD/Waterford resident; Aaron Pauley, Niantic resident.

Excused: Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Landers made a motion to seat board alternates Ralph Bates for the vacant Salem seat, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Don Danila made corrections to expenses reported in item 4 – Treasurer’s Report. Rick Kanter commented that Peter Harris was not seated for WELSCO as Rick was present. Don Danila made motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. December expenses included the purchase of nitrate reagents and renewal of the NRWC website. We also earned a modest amount of interest. Don reported that when he renewed the website webhost service, he elected to move us to a cloud hosting service to which we are enrolled for three years. Don also reported that he has received the debit card from Charter Oak Credit Union, which he used to make the above purchases. Dave Turner made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes. Dave Turner made a motion to reimburse ECCD for project

support for the period of October to December in the amount of \$1500, seconded by Tom Bowen. All in favor, motion passes.

5. Coordinator's Report: Judy has added several news posts to the NRWC website. With the exception of monthly water sampling conducted by Don Danila, the water quality monitoring program is wrapped up until spring. Judy was notified that the application we submitted to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for the watershed plan update has been approved. She has not yet heard if the Society of Women Environmental Professionals – Connecticut Chapter (SWEP-CT) has selected awardees to their grant program (we applied for the purchase of a water level logger for the Latimer Brook stream gauge site). EPOC has recently announced their 2016 grant round. If we are not awarded the SWEP grant, Judy will pursue funding through EPOC. Also, CT DEEP has announced the FY2016 CWA Section 319 grant round. Finally, Dominion Foundation will be opening their 2016 grant round soon, so we need to think of ideas for that application. Regarding ECCD projects in the Niantic River watershed, Judy and Dan Mullins will be meeting with Waterford Planner Abby Piersall to talk about the Mago Point tree filter project. ECCD has received notification from DEEP that the East Lyme High School parking lot stormwater infiltration proposal has been approved.
6. Old Business:
 - a. 2016 Meeting Schedule revision: Judy revised the 2016 meeting schedule to correct the September meeting date, which was incorrectly listed as September 8th. The correct date is September 1st. Directors reviewed the corrected list and approved it by consensus. Eric Thomas asked if it could be posted on the website.
 - b. Town Matters: Rick Kanter reported that this year's scallop harvest has been robust. Dave Turner suggested we send appeal letters to watershed towns soon. Several members stated it is too late in the budget process.
 - c. Watershed Signs: There was no activity on this item this past month.
 - d. Open Space Acquisition Discussion: Don Danila made a motion to add open space acquisition discussion to the agenda, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion passes. Steve Harney of East Lyme was present to discuss a proposal to partner with the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) to purchase two parcels in Waterford in the Latimer Brook watershed for permanent preservation through the DEEP Open Space Land Acquisition program. Steve has previously worked with NEFF to purchase the land in East Lyme now known as the Niantic River Headwater Preserve. Steve was seeking NRWC support of the land purchase and asked if we could provide a Letter of Support for the application to DEEP. Dave Turner made a motion to support the application, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion passes. Steve will contact Judy to provide details necessary for the preparation of a letter of support.
7. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the results of the January water sampling. Dr. Christine Kirchhoff and William Grant from UConn joined him for

sampling. Don noted that flow has increased over the last few months and that he was able to collect a sample from a curtain drain pipe that discharges near the lower Cranberry Meadow Brook sampling site. Don noted that for the second month in a row nitrate levels at all sites increased.

- b. Education/Outreach Group: John Jasper reported that he continues to work with Dr. Kirchhoff and William Grant to evaluate our water quality data, and that the report should be completed by the end of this semester (May 2016). The Committee would like William to present the results of the study.
 - c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Directors discussed the Community Foundation grant award, and whether it would cover the cost of a watershed plan update. Discussion ensued regarding what amount would be adequate to do a thorough review and update. It was suggested we develop an RFP for a consultant to do the update. Eric Thomas discussed possible timelines for the FY16 §319 program, from the receipt of applications to the award notifications to contract execution. Directors decided to schedule a special meeting on January 21st to discuss the application in more detail. Dave Turner made a motion to apply to EPOC for an additional level logger and necessary materials to establish a gauging station at Cranberry Meadow Brook, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion passes. Don Landers stated that the 2016 Dominion Foundation will be announcing its grant round soon, and that we should plan a bricks and mortar BMP. Judy suggested we do two additional rain gardens. Don Landers made a motion to apply for a Dominion Foundation grant, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - d. Audit Committee: The Audit Committee, which is comprised of Don Landers, Rick Kanter, and Ralph Bates, will schedule a meeting in February 2016, and will coordinate with Kate Johnson at ECCD for necessary information.
 - e. Membership Subcommittee: Fran Violante reported that the subcommittee will be meeting on January 9th. She will provide a summary at the February 4th meeting.
8. New Business:
- a. Election of Officers: We are not due to hold elections until January 2017. However, directors discussed the formation of a nominating committee preparatory to the next election. Dave Turner made a motion to create a Nominating Committee, which will meet in October 2016 to nominate a slate of officers, seconded by Tom Bowen. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - b. ECCD Project Support Reimbursement (for October – December 2015): This item was done under Item 4 – Treasurer’s Report.
9. Public Comments: Maureen Fitzgerald thanked the Committee for its hard work.
10. Next meeting: February 4, 2016, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

11. Adjourn: Dave Turner made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Rondeau".

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator