



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

October 4, 2018, 6 pm

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

FILED

Oct 29 20 18 AT 2:50 AM/PM
[Signature]
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; David Bliven, Town of Montville; Donald Danila, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Dan Mullins, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Suzanne Thompson, Save the River-Save the Hills (guest).

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Danila made a motion to seat Ralph Bates for Doug Lawson, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of September 6, 2018 meeting minutes. Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes, with the following two corrections under "Seating of Alternates": (i) correct the spelling of the name Doug (from Dog) Lawson; and (ii) add the name Dave Turner as the person who seconded the motion. The motion was seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Presented by Don Danila who briefly reported monthly interest income and start and end of month balances. Don Landers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: The coordinator's report, prepared by Judy Rondeau and distributed by e-mail to all members, was presented by Dan Mullins.
6. DEEP Liaison Report: Eric Thomas, CT DEEP Representative, was excused from the meeting and no report was available.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters:

- I. Peter Harris provided a flyer advertising the upcoming Oyster Festival set for Saturday October 6, 2018, from Noon to 8:00 PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Niantic. The event is serving as a fund raiser for the Miracle League of SE CT.
- II. Peter Harris reported that WELSCO is establishing a sub-committee to work with East Lyme Harbor Management to ensure stakeholder concerns are considered related to commercial aquaculture in the Niantic River.
- III. Don Danila discussed the status of the Waterford Solar Farm project, and reported that the Save The River-Save The Hills (STR-STH) organization has been granted status as an intervenor in the hearings conducted by the CT Siting Council. He also noted that STR-STH will have the opportunity to provide responses to questions posed by the Siting Council and lawyers for the LLC building the Solar Farm. The STR-STH organization will be supported by representatives of the NRWC.

b. NRWPP Update RFP Discussion:

- i. One vendor (GZA) did inquire about the project budget;
- ii. Several other vendors were too busy to consider starting this project this year;
- iii. The NRWC will try to get specific feedback from GZA and other vendors on scope, schedule and budget;
- iv. We have DEEP support for continued efforts;
- v. We should keep fund raising in case the budget was inadequate;
- vi. We will need to consider reducing the scope of the RFP;
- vii. We will need to consider expanding the schedule;
- viii. Next sub-committee meeting ensure Dave Turner is included.

8. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reported that he will be sampling rainfall event for Nitrate, but must coordinate that effort with the RBV sampling. He reported that he has had a lot of support by Ray and Penny Heller.
- b. Education and Outreach: John Jasper provided several additional copies of the 5-page report that he had presented at the September 6, 2018 meeting, "Preliminary Overview of Nitrate Fluxes from the Latimer Brook into the Niantic River Estuary". This report provided an analysis of the past ten years of nitrate data from Latimer Brook sampling.
- c. In support of the Behavior Change Pilot Project (see the Coordinators Report), there is a scheduled follow-up survey scheduled for October 27, 2018 (rain day is Nov 3).
- d. A Watershed Workshop at Waterford High School, for High School students from East Lyme, Waterford, and Montville was conducted on September 27, 2018 (see coordinators report). During the discussion of the workshop, Don Danila reminded the committee members that the NRWC has funding for providing Teachers Water Quality Sampling Kits, and that this resource may be a good way to support student interest in water sampling and analysis.

9. New Business:

- a. ECCD Quarterly Project Support Reimbursement: Don Danila made a motion recommending payment of an invoice for \$3,208.00 to the ECCD, with the following breakdown: For the time period July through September 2018: Pay \$2,375.00 for Project Support (from the Dominion 2018 Grant), and Pay \$833.00 for Project Support (from the Kleinschmidt Grant). The motion was seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Public Comments: Suzanne Thompson, STR-STH commented during the discussion regarding the Watershed Workshop, that the students really got interested when given the chance to get some hands-on experience using the instruments involved in sampling and analysis.

11. Next Meeting: November 1, 2018, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 10 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.

12. Adjournment: A motion was made by Dave Turner at 6:50 PM to adjourn, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph W. Bates for Judy Rondeau

