



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

## Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

April 4, 2019, 6 pm

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

FILED

APR 26 2019 AT 2:45 AM/PM  
Kenneth Miller  
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; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Guests: James Gallagher, East Lyme Public Trust Foundation; Dan Gallagher; Fred Wise.

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair Chris Tomichuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Danila made a motion to seat Ralph Bates for Melissa Bezanson, seconded by Peter Harris. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Niantic River Lawn Care Behavior Change Campaign Update – Holly Drinkuth, The Nature Conservancy. This item was tabled pending Ms. Drinkuth's arrival. Holly provided a high-level overview of the results of the Long Island Sound Study's Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) Behavior Change Campaign pilot project. She reviewed the process to develop the campaign, including the social marketing message, and the final results of the project. She then discussed with the Board possible next steps, including expanding the project watershed-wide.
4. Review and Approval of March 7, 2019 meeting minutes: Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila presented the Treasurer's Report. Ralph Bates made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. All in favor, motion passes.
6. Coordinator's Report: Judy Rondeau reviewed her activities over the past month. Judy met with town staff from Waterford and East Lyme to discuss expanding the Lawn Care Behavior Change Pilot Project; has been invited to participate in the STR-STH Niantic River Outreach project student workshop in May; and obtained the plant list from Mago Point fishing platform landscaping to use to revamp the demonstration riparian buffer. Judy also reported that the RFP Subcommittee finalized the NRWPP Update consultant contract.

7. DEEP Liaison Report: Eric Thomas, CT DEEP representative. Eric reported that DEEP has reviewed the East Lyme Harbor Management Plan; the draft CT Blue Plan will be presented at the upcoming Thames River Basin Partnership meeting on 4/16/19 in Waterford; and the Audubon In-Lieu Fee program for wetland restoration grant round is open and may be an appropriate funding source for wetland restorations in the Niantic watershed.
8. Old Business:
  - a. Town Matters: No matters were brought forth for discussion.
  - b. Election of Officers: Dave Turner made a motion to nominate the existing officers for a new two-year term, seconded by John Jasper.

The current slate of officers is:

Chairperson: Christine Tomichek  
Vice-Chairperson: Don Landers  
Secretary: Melissa Bezanson  
Treasurer: Don Danila

With the agreement of the present officers to serve an additional term, all were in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. Congratulations and thank you!

9. Subcommittee Updates:
  - a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the results of the winter wet weather sampling, which was done from March 21-26. Don stated the Monitoring Subcommittee will collect wet weather samples for the remainder of this year, and then evaluate if we want to continue sampling. Don reported that the YSI meter is still not working properly. Discussion followed regarding whether to repair or replace the meter, or consider renting a meter. There was also discussion regarding recruiting new volunteers to assist with the monitoring program.
  - b. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
  - c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Reviewed in Coordinator's Report.
  - d. Membership Subcommittee: Inactive.
  - e. NRWPP Update/RFP Subcommittee: Dave Turner made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Consultant Contract to retain Fuss & O'Neill to conduct the NRWPP update, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the motion passes. Judy Rondeau requested that the RFP Subcommittee be dissolved and the Board form a Steering Committee to assist with the Plan Update. Dave Turner made a motion to dissolve the RFP Subcommittee, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the motion passes. Judy will send a list of potential Steering Committee tasks to the Board for review.
  - f. Audit Subcommittee: Ralph Bates reviewed the activities of the Audit Subcommittee and presented the Audit Report. The Audit Subcommittee concluded that the financial accounts are in good order, and that all required reports have been submitted. Dave Turner made a motion to accept the Audit Subcommittee Audit Report for 2018, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the report is accepted.
10. New Business:
  - a. ECCD Project Support Reimbursement: Don Danila reviewed the ECCD project support invoice with the Board. Don Danila made a motion to reimburse ECCD for project support services for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 (January-March) in the amount of \$4,875, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the Motion passes.
11. Public Comments: Jim Gallagher, East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, shared information about the Trust's restoration project at Niantic Bay Beach. The Trust has planted beach grass to stabilize and

increase the dunes. They will be conducting high-resolution topographic surveys to assess whether (and where) sand is being lost or gained. Jim shared the Niantic Beach education brochure series developed by the Trust and left us several of each brochure for distribution.

12. Next Meeting: May 2, 2019, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.

13. Adjournment: A motion was made by Dave Turner at 7:32 PM to adjourn, seconded by Peter Harris. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator