



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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FILED

Minutes  
NRWC Board of Directors  
June 6, 2019, 6 pm  
East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1  
108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

June 28 2019 AT 11:50 AM/PM  
Kenneth Melin  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: 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 Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Suzanne Thompson, STR-STH (guest).

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

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Danila made a motion to seat Rick Kanter for Don Landers, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of May 2, 2019 meeting minutes: Dave Turner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Peter Harris. All in favor, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila presented the Treasurer's Report. Peter Harris made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy Rondeau reviewed her activities over the past month. Judy participated in a number of outreach activities including EarthFest 2019, two Behavior Change Campaign conference calls, the annual 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Hole in the Wall Outdoor Stormwater Classroom, the STR-STH Niantic River Outreach Campaign workshop at East Lyme High School, and a Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting. Judy also reported that she will be leading a tour of Niantic WS BMPs for a regional conference in August. Judy reported that the Steering Committee has begun working with Fuss & O'Neill on the first few tasks of the NRWPP update. Judy submitted proposals to the Dominion Foundation for project funding for 2019-2020 and the Long Island Futures Fund grant program to expand the Niantic River Lawn Care Behavior Change Pilot Project. Judy reported that planning is advancing on the Latimer Brook Stormwater Infiltration project (East Lyme High School parking lot); installation is anticipated for end of July/beginning of August.
6. DEEP Liaison Report: Eric Thomas, CT DEEP representative reported that the 2018 Draft Integrated Water Quality Report has been distributed for review. He also reported that the Statewide Water Plan was approved by the CT Legislature.

7. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: Suzanne Thompson provided an update on the STR-STH Niantic River Watershed Social Marketing and Pump It Up projects. The wrap-up workshop was held at East Lyme High School. Students presented the results of their outreach projects. STR-STH and NRWC will work together to promote the students' projects, which include a Facebook page, Instagram account and ~~septic system maintenance outreach.~~
- b. Don Danila provided an update regarding the proposed solar facility in Waterford.

8. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila stated that he will conduct the spring sampling at the next suitable rain fall. He and John Jasper have been reviewing the results of nitrogen sampling, and may discuss the results with John Mullaney at USGS to get a better understanding of the relationship between N-NO<sub>3</sub> and stream discharge. Rick Kanter commented on the ban of certain types of herbicides by the Pine Grove Association. Judy Rondeau commented that the Millstone Environmental Lab has documented eel grass in Smith Cove. Brief discussion followed regarding whether this is an effect of nitrogen reductions following the sewerage of Pine Grove.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: Judy Rondeau discussed a grant proposal to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund by The Last Green Valley to conduct a Thames watershed outreach event called ReSource to Sea, which follows on a similar event by TLGV several years ago. NRWC provided a letter of support for the application and, if awarded, will partner with TLGV to conduct an outreach event in the Niantic watershed. Judy Rondeau also reminded directors that Celebrate East Lyme Day is coming up on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: Judy Rondeau reported that she has distributed draft materials to the Steering Committee for review, including the stakeholder list, a draft workshop invitation letter and a draft watershed survey. Chris Tomichek questioned whether we should hold one day and one evening workshop rather than one north and one south workshop, to allow stakeholders who otherwise would not be able to attend a day meeting to attend to participate.

9. New Business: Dave Turner asked if there was anything the Committee could do to enhance bottom habitat in the river for shellfish. Peter Harris reported that there has been some discussion among various groups in the watershed about enhancing oyster populations. He stated that there are areas in the river available to enhance oyster populations that would not impact clam habitat.

10. Public Comments: No comments.

11. Next Meeting: July 11, 2019, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.

12. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:41 PM by Don Danila, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator