



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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## Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

October 3, 2019, 6 pm

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

NOV 1 20 19 AT 8:23 AM/PM  
*Lauren Helm*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; David Bliven, Town of Montville; Donald Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; John Bialowans, East Lyme resident (guest); Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH (guest).

Excused: Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair Chris Tomichuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by Don Danila to seat Ralph Bates for Don Landers, seconded by Dave Bliven. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Dominion Charitable Foundation Grant Award: Susan Gonzales from the Millstone Environmental Lab presented the 2019 Dominion Charitable Foundation Environmental Stewardship grant award to the Committee.

A motion was made by Don Danila to move agenda item 7- DEEP Liaison Report to agenda item 4 and to adjust the agenda accordingly, seconded by Melissa Bezanson. All in favor, the motion passes.

4. DEEP Liaison Report: Eric Thomas commented on the CT Watershed Fair which was held at Goodwin College in East Hartford on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. NRWC was represented at the event as a priority restoration watershed. Eric announced that the release of the 2019 RFP for CWA \$319 funding is expected by the end of the year. Proposals will likely be due late winter/early. DEEP will be looking to fund fewer, larger projects than in past years. Regarding the most recent watershed plan update invoice, Eric is awaiting a detailed summary of consultant activities before approving the invoice. Eric shared the NRWC stakeholder workshop flyer with relevant DEEP staff.
5. Review and Approval of September 5, 2019 meeting minutes: Melissa Bezanson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the motion passes.
6. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila presented the Treasurer's Report. Ralph Bates made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Dave Bliven. All in favor, the motion passes.
7. Coordinator's Report: Judy attended the Watershed Fair sponsored by DEEP and the Rivers Alliance of CT on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at Goodwin College in East Hartford. She will be joining Waterford High School science teacher Diane Herr and her AP biology class for an outing to Jordan Brook on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Also on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Judy will be attending the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting. Planning continues for the Community-Based

Social Marketing workshop, which is a follow-up to the LISS CBSM Niantic River behavior change campaign. The workshop will be held in spring 2020.

8. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: It was reported that at the recent East Lyme town meeting, appreciation was expressed for projects NRWC and partners have conducted in Niantic.

9. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila collected water quality monitoring samples for a rain event on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. He is planning the 2019 RBV sample collection for the next week. Sampling sites in the Niantic watershed include Latimer Brook and Cranberry Meadow Brook. NRWC & STR have been reviewing possible sites in Stony and Oil Mill Brooks for sampling downstream of the proposed solar facility. The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing turbidity meters.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: Activities were reviewed in the coordinator's report.
- c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: The workshops are scheduled for Tuesday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> in Montville and Waterford. A Steering Committee planning call is scheduled for Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Judy has been working with Fuss & O'Neill to prepare the workshop agenda and meeting materials. NRWC members are asked to attend to assist with meeting activities.

10. New Business:

- a. ECCD project support reimbursement: Melissa Bezanson made a motion to reimburse ECCD for project support services for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 (July-September), seconded by Dave Bliven. All in favor, the motion passes.
- b. Review and approval of Fuss & O'Neill NRWPP Update invoice: Don Danila made a motion to approve the invoice from Fuss & O'Neill dated 9/11/19 pending receipt of a summary report detailing activities conducted during the invoice period, with payment to be made upon receipt by NRWC of payment of the invoice dated 9/18/19 from NRWC to DEEP, seconded by Rick Kanter. All in favor, the motion passes.
- c. Proposed Waterford Solar Facility Discussion: NRWC and Deb Moshier-Dunn of Save the River – Save the Hills discussed the status of the proposed solar facility in Waterford. The developer plans to resubmit an application for the development of the facility. Local partners are conducting outreach and engaging potential partners to raise awareness of the project.

11. Public Comments: John Bialowans of East Lyme was present to discuss his lawsuit against the developer of the solar facility on Walnut Hill Road in East Lyme. John thanked NRWC for their assistance to date and asked for any additional assistance we could provide for his lawsuit.

12. Next Meeting: November 7, 2019, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.

13. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:35 PM by Don Danila, seconded by Ralph Bates. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator