



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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FILED

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

December 5, 2019, 6 pm

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

Dec 30 2019 AT 10:08 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; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Chris Tomichkek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH (guest); Fred Wise, Waterford Harbor Management Commission (guest); Mike Johnson (guest); Brian Maggi, US Coast Guard Academy (guest); Maggie Favretti, US Coast Guard Academy Outreach Partner (guest).

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair C. Tomichkek called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by D. Danila to seat R. Bates for J. Jasper (East Lyme), seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes: D. Landers made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction; item 11 Public Comments, there is no "e" at the end of Dunn, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: D. Danila reviewed the Treasurer's Report. D. Landers made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. US Coast Guard Academy Coastal Resiliency Term Projects: Maggie Favretti and Brian Maggi described the coastal resiliency term projects which will be undertaken by USCGA students in the spring 2020 term. The students will partner with local communities to develop meaningful projects to address climate change/coastal resiliency issues. East Lyme and Waterford are among the communities with whom the students will partner. Ideally, NRWC will be able to incorporate or reference the projects in the NRWPP update.
6. Coordinator's Report: Ralph Bates and Judy attended National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound Futures Fund award ceremony in Bridgeport on Nov. 4th. On Nov. 13th, Judy participated in a Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group conference call to review and discuss the finalizing and closing out the Niantic River Data Synthesis project. Judy attended the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation's annual meeting on Nov. 18th and spoke about NRWC projects and activities. Judy and Maureen Fitzgerald collected an RBV sample from Willys Meadow Brook on Nov. 20th. Judy is continuing to develop a

Niantic River-based project with a UCONN CAP student. Judy has been in touch with YSI regarding purchasing a new water quality meter. A project progress conference call for the NRWPP Update Steering Committee and Fuss & O'Neill project staff is scheduled for December 11th. There are several open grant rounds. Judy will review them for possible projects.

7. DEEP Liaison Report: E. Thomas provided an update of DEEP activities for the Committee. Eric reported that the deadline has passed for the volunteer/citizen science data submissions for consideration in the 2020 Integrated Water Quality Assessment. The Long Island Sound Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy has been approved and is available on the DEEP website.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: P. Harris reported that through a public-private partnership, 100,000 oysters were placed in the Niantic River in November. D. Danila noted that East Lyme is updating its Plan of Conservation and Development and will be holding a meeting mid-December. P. Harris also stated that he shared a notice about a vacancy on the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Commission with a potential candidate.
9. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. Monitoring Group: There is no monitoring planned in December. D. Danila noted that he attended a webinar about a new on-line resource – The Atlas of Common Macroinvertebrates of Eastern North America - <https://www.macroinvertebrates.org/>. Judy reviewed a quote from Xylem Analytics for a new YSI Pro-plus meter. D. Turner made a motion to approve the purchase of the meter for the quoted price plus shipping & handling, to be paid out of the 2019 Dominion Foundation grant, seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, the motion passes. The Board held brief discussion about temperature monitoring in the streams downstream of the proposed solar facility in Waterford. One proposed monitoring site is not available; an alternate site will need to be identified.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: Activities were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 - c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: NRWC received an invoice from Fuss & O'Neill on 11/13/19 for activities associated with the watershed workshops. Judy submitted an invoice to DEEP on 11/22/19. D. Landers made a motion to approve payment of the 11/13/19 Fuss & O'Neill invoice, pending receipt of payment from DEEP, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
10. New Business:
 - a. Review and Approval of 2020 Meeting Schedule: Following a review and discussion regarding the proposed 2020 meeting dates, D. Danila made a motion to approve the 2020 meeting schedule with the change of the January 2nd meeting to January 9th, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - b. Director and Officers Insurance Discussion: D. Landers reported that he had inquired with the Town of East Lyme and was informed that all appointed and duly sworn-in representatives are covered by the Town's D & O policy. NRWC directors should check with their municipalities to see if they are likewise covered under their town's policies. (P. Harris excused himself at 7:01 pm.)
 - c. Discussion - Legal Basics for Connecticut Nonprofits (December 11, 2019): Judy shared information regarding this free workshop provided by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut if anyone was interested in attending on behalf of NRWC.
 - d. Review and Discussion of 2015 Dominion Foundation grant – rain garden initiative: Judy reviewed the original 2015 proposal language to determine if NRWC could install a rain garden

at the Montville Senior Center. The original language specified the installation of stormwater management practices in priority areas in two watershed towns. D. Landers made a motion to authorize the installation of a rain garden at the Montville Senior Center, seconded by D. Turner. Six (6) in favor, one (1) opposed, the motion passes.

- e. Review and Rank Top Five Concerns and Actions from the NRWPP Update Workshops: Judy will email the top five concerns and actions to directors for their review and ranking prior to the January 2020 meeting.

11. Public Comments: D. Moshier-Dunn asked if NRWC planned to incorporate recommendations for open space conservation planning into the NRWPP update. Directors replied that open space planning recommendations would be general in nature and identify headwater and riparian areas, and promote preservation of contiguous parcels to create open space blocks.
12. Next Meeting: January 9, 2020, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.
13. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:28 PM by D. Turner, seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator