



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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

FILED

Minutes  
NRWC Board of Directors  
February 6, 2020, 6 pm  
East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1  
108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

Feb 27 2020 AT 10:51 AM/PM  
*(Signature)*  
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; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Maureen Fitzgerald, Env. Planner, Town of Waterford; Lisa McGonan, East Lyme (guest).

Excused: John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Vice-chair D. Landers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by D. Danila to seat R. Bates for C. Tomichek, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes: P. Harris made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: D. Danila reviewed the Treasurer's Report. R. Bates made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, the motion passes. D. Danila noted that he submitted the required annual IRS filing.
5. Coordinator's Report: On Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Judy attended a coastal resiliency project meeting at the Coast Guard Academy and on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> attended site visits in Waterford with planning staff and the cadets. On Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, Judy, Peter Harris, and Rich Chmiel accompanied Kayla, the UConn CAP to conduct oyster sampling in the Niantic River. On Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Judy attended a Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting. The NRWPP Update Steering Committee held a monthly conference call with Fuss & O'Neill on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Judy submitted an interim project report to the Community Foundation of Eastern CT on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. Judy is in the process of planning the open space strategy workshop for the end of February and has been working with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to prepare the contract for the LISFF Healthy Lawns Healthy River campaign this spring.
6. DEEP Liaison Report: E. Thomas provided an update of DEEP activities for the Committee. Eric reported that the DEEP Water Quality Monitoring program will be evaluating Latimer Brook and will be looking for feedback from the community. Eric reported that DEEP is in the process of finalizing the contract with ECCD for the 4-Town Bioretention project.

7. Old Business:
  - a. Town Matters: D. Danila prepared and submitted a review for the East Lyme Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update. R. Bates attended the annual East Lyme Conservationists Potluck on behalf of NRWC.
  - b. Director and Officers Insurance Discussion: Directors reported regarding communications with their respective CEOs whether they are covered by municipal D&O insurance.
8. Subcommittee Updates:
  - a. Monitoring Group: D. Danila set up and calibrated the new YSI and is ready to conduct the winter quarter water quality sampling.
  - b. Education/Outreach Group: Activities were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
  - c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: Activities were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
  - d. Audit Committee: R. Bates reported that the committee will review audit material in March, and will report to the Board in April.
9. New Business:
  - a. Discuss/rank proposed site-specific BMPs: Directors submitted their top 15 BMPs to Judy. She will compile the list and submit it to Fuss & O'Neill for incorporation in the plan update.
  - b. Fuss & O'Neill progress invoice: D. Danila made a motion to approve payment to Fuss & O'Neill for the invoice dated 1/15/20 when payment from DEEP is received, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, the motion passes.
  - c. LISFF Healthy Lawns Healthy River grant: Judy presented several grant-related documents for signatures.
  - d. NRWC By-laws: In the process of preparing the LISFF contract, Judy realized the current by-laws, updated and approved in 2018, had not been signed as the secretary had resigned. After brief discussion, consensus is to have the chair sign the by-laws.
  - e. Annual fertilizer advertisement in *The Day*: P. Harris reported that WELSCO plans to run the fertilizer advertisement again this year and asked if NRWC would participate. This will be added to the March agenda for action.
10. Public Comments: The Board and guests discussed a proposed development on Brides Brook in East Lyme. Although Brides Brook is not in the Niantic River watershed, it was noted that Brides Brook has the largest alewife run in Connecticut. D. Danila provided a brief update of the status of the Oswegatchie Hills proposed development and noted that the Trust for Public Land has withdrawn from the discussion. D. Landers thanked D. Danila for submitting comments to the East Lyme POCD.
11. Next Meeting: March 5, 2020, 6 PM, East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave. Niantic, CT.
12. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:22 PM by D. Bliven, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator