



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

FILED

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

May 7, 2020, 6 pm

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

May 27 2020 AT 3:50 AM/PM

Karen Fulmer

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; 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 Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: David Bliven, Town of Montville; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by D. Landers to seat R. Bates for the vacant East Lyme seat, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of April 2, 2020 meeting minutes: D. Landers made a motion to approve the April 2, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by D. Turner. 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 D. Landers. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: NRWC has received the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River contract for signing. NRWC has also been notified that we have been awarded sampling equipment for the Niantic River outfall sampling project. Judy has posted announcements on the Facebook page regarding the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River project and Niantic River outfall sampling. Judy prepared and submitted the proposal for the 2020 Dominion Foundation RFP. Judy is also in the process of preparing a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound Futures Fund proposal to support the Niantic River outfall sampling program. The Coordinator's Report will be posted on the Niantic River Watershed website for review.
6. DEEP Liaison Report: E. Thomas was not able to attend the meeting; however, he provided an update of DEEP activities for the Committee. Eric noted that a groundwater study of nitrogen loading to LIS with a focus on the Niantic watershed is underway by USGS. DEEP is conducting a final review of CWA §319 proposals for selection. DEEP has been coordinating with Town of Waterford staff regarding a complaint of degreaser being dumped down a stormdrain.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: D. Danila provided an update on the Waterford solar development. P. Harris reported that CT DoAG DABA may modify recreational shellfish areas in the Niantic River due to an

- increase in summertime boat use. The Board accepted the resignation of John Jasper, representative from East Lyme, and original Watershed Advisory Committee member.
- b. Director and Officers Insurance Discussion: Waterford and Salem representatives need to check with their elected officials to see if they are covered under their respective town's policy.
 - c. Fertilizer Advertisement in *The Day*: D. Landers made a motion to reimburse WELSCO for 1/5 of the cost of the advertisement as agreed upon at the April 2, 2020 meeting, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the motion passes.
8. Subcommittee Updates
- a. Monitoring Group: D. Danila noted that he will be conducting the spring water quality sampling.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: Activities were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report. The Board had brief discussion regarding Celebrate East Lyme Day. At this time, it is not known if the Town will hold the event.
 - c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: An update was provided in the Coordinator's Report.
 - d. Audit Committee: R. Bates reviewed the Audit Committee report. D. Turner made a motion to accept the Audit Committee report as presented, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, the motion passes. D. Landers thanked the Committee for a job well done.
9. New Business:
- a. EPA Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program Agreement: D. Landers made a motion to authorize the watershed coordinator to sign the loan agreement on behalf of the watershed committee, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - b. NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund Contract: D. Landers made a motion to authorize the watershed coordinator to use the Chair's electronic signature to sign the LISFF contract and submit it to NFWF, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - c. Darrow Pond Alewife Run: The board discussed the documentation of alewife at the outlet to Darrow Pond in the DEEP weekly anadromous fish report. The general consensus was that challenges to restoring fish passage to Darrow Pond outweigh the benefits.
 - d. Watershed Coordinator Funding: J. Rondeau raised concerns regarding coordinator funding resulting from a change in the due date of the 2020 Dominion Foundation grant from May to September. The 2019 funding was expended as of 3/31/20; no new funding is in place. ECCD has a small amount of funding for coordinator services, but coordinator activities will need to be severely curtailed until we know if we have been awarded the Dominion funding, or identify other funding.
 - e. J. Jasper Resignation: The board discussed honoring John's 12+ years of service to NRWC.
10. Public Comments: None.
11. Next Meeting: June 4, 2020, 6 PM, Location TBD.
12. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:18 PM by D. Danila, seconded by M. Bezanson. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator