



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

FILED

Minutes
Niantic River Watershed Committee
Monitoring Group
October 1, 2020, 5 - 6 pm
Via Zoom Online Conferencing

Mar 25 2021 AT 10:30 AM/PM
Karen Miller
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, Susan Gonzalez, Don Landers, Chris Tomichuk, and Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

1. Welcome: Watershed Coordinator Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 5:02 pm.
2. Review of June 4, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes: D. Landers moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2020 Special Meeting, seconded by C. Tomichuk. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Water Quality Monitoring:
 - a. Water Quality Monitoring Program Review: D. Danila reported that he had collected the summer wet weather sample in August. He had been collecting water depth measurements at the dam spillway, and has found that they correlate well with stream stage and flow rates at the recently re-activated USGS stream gauge downstream. Danila reported that he attended an on-line meeting for the development of a LIS water quality database led by Jamie Vaudrey of UConn, Peter Linderoth of Save the Sound and Sarah Crosby of Harbor Watch. J. Rondeau also attended this meeting on a different day. Rondeau reported that she has created a WQX account for NRWC but has not yet uploaded any data. Regarding upcoming RBV sampling, D. Danila commented that due to the drought there is very little flow in the streams. Further, DEEP is encouraging caution and use of appropriate social distancing while sampling. Due to both factors, there may be little value in conducting RBV this year. D. Danila and S. Gonzalez have not yet deployed the tidbit temperature loggers in Oil Mill and Stony Brooks. It may be worth waiting until a decision from the CT Siting Council is made regarding the proposed solar facility before deployment.
 - b. Data assessment/evaluation/report: J. Rondeau stated that normally she includes a summary of the monitoring data in the annual *News from the Watershed* report. However, because Celebrate East Lyme Day was canceled this year, she has not prepared that report. D. Danila suggested we wait until the fifth year of wet weather sampling is completed and do a thorough analysis then.

Niantic River Watershed...

...a Treasure Worth Protecting

- c. EPA Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program: D. Landers reported that he has met with Peter Giliberto from the East Lyme Engineering office to plan the outfall sampling. They have vetted several outfalls. P. Giliberto shared the design of a sampler with Landers, which he reproduced. J. Rondeau reported that she is trying to connect with staff in Waterford to similarly vet sites prior to sampling.
4. Partner Reports: Kelly Streich (CT DEEP), who leads the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group, has invited NRWC to attend a presentation by USGS on a groundwater study being conducted in the Niantic watershed. J. Rondeau will send a doodle poll to NRWC directors to determine potential dates.
5. Other Business: J. Rondeau suggested that subcommittee members consider the expansion of subcommittee membership. At one point, the Monitoring Committee had a large membership, but it has dropped away over the years. Committee members agreed it would be good to reinvigorate the committee.
6. Next meeting: April 1, 2021, 5:00 PM, venue TBD
7. Adjourn: the meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm by consensus of the attendees.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator