



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.*

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

FILED

## Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

April 1, 2021, 6 pm

Via Zoom Online Conferencing

APR 29 2021 AT 11:30 AM/PM  
[Signature]  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Karen Bishop, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Judy Rondeau (NR Watershed Coordinator); Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH.

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish commission; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair C. Tomichuk called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. Judy Rondeau introduced Karen Bishop, from Waterford, the newest member of the committee, attending as the Town of Waterford Alternate.
- 2. Seating of Alternates:** D. Landers moved to seat alternates, R. Bates for Salem, and K. Bishop for Waterford, seconded by D. Danila; all in favor, motion passed.
- 3. Review and Approval of March 4, 2021 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes, as amended, to correct item 2, to read as follows; "... D. Danila moved to seat R. Bates for vacant..."; made by D. Landers, seconded by R. Bates; all in favor, motion passed.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila reviewed the Treasurer's report. D. Landers moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by S. Gonzalez. P. Harris reminded the board that the payment for the Ad placed in The Day newspaper on March 28<sup>th</sup>, was paid in full by Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO), and that the six supporting groups will repay WELSCO, sharing the cost equally. All in favor, motion passed.
- 5. Coordinator's Report:** J. Rondeau had previously distributed copies of the April report for all board members prior review, and she reviewed the report. Judy reminded the board that the delayed campaign for Healthy Lawns-Healthy River will resume activity with a team meeting in the near future. Judy also briefly discussed the filters that are to be installed in storm drains in April as part of the ECCD 4-Town bioretention project. Judy also reported on two emails she had received recently: (1) A New London businessman is looking for a community project that he could support, and it was recommended by D. Danila, that he focus on the streambank cleanup, in Waterford, along Parkway North, to help remove the trash and debris that has collected there;

(2) Social Marketing contact from Judy Preston, with a request for information on the Healthy Lawns – Healthy River campaign, to share with a local home-owners association. Judy Rondeau will share the materials she has.

6. **DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas was not able to attend this meeting, but had forwarded an email to all members, to share the information that he would have discussed had he been participating. Regarding the notice of the East Lyme Community Survey about the local parks with a planned focus on the Darrow Pond property in East Lyme, Danila had provided a map that outlined several proposed uses of the Town owned portion of the property. R. Bates attended the March 25 webinar on Shellfish Area Classifications: Presenters were Kristin DeRosia-Banick and Alisa Dragan, and they covered a lot of material in the hour presentation including the guidance for classifying growing areas from the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), based on sanitary surveys. There are 150 sample stations on the CT shoreline. Each is sampled 12 times a year (1800 samples per year). Ref: CT Bureau of Aquaculture, Shellfish Sanitation Program.
7. **Old Business:**
  - a. Town Matters: None
8. **Subcommittee Updates:**
  - a. Monitoring Group: The calibration of the temperature sensors will be done by S. Gonzalez. The team would like to add an additional temperature sensor, but needs the permission of the affected land owner prior to taking any action. Deb Moshier-Dunn may be able to assist. EPA Stormwater Toolkit program update: D. Landers obtained 4 samples. J. Rondeau reported that she had returned the old EPA Stormwater Toolkit from last year, and has applied for the Toolkit for year 2021.
  - b. Education/Outreach Group: see the Coordinators report
  - c. NRWPP Update Summit Committee: No activity yet.
9. **New Business**
  - a. LIS Coastal Watershed Network Resource Focus Group update: D. Danila participated in three of the focus groups on Nitrogen, Plastics contamination, and fecal bacteria concerns.
  - b. Town of East Lyme Darrow Pond Survey: R. Bates reported that he had submitted a survey response, and would follow-up with the EL Parks & Recreation department for their upcoming plans.
  - c. Motion by D. Landers, seconded by P. Harris, to add item 9.c under new business; all in favor, motion passed: Financial update to submit two payments for board approval:
    - (1) Reimburse ECCD for the January through March, 2021 period for ECCD Coordinator support and pay \$2,500.00. Motion by D. Landers, seconded by S. Gonzalez, all in favor, motion passed.
    - (2) Reimburse Judy Rondeau, \$16.21 for the costs incurred in returning the EPA Stormwater Toolkit. Approved.

10. **Public Comments:** Deb Moshier-Dunn has posted the jointly created ad about reducing fertilizer on the STR-STH Facebook page, and boosted it so it is running as an ad on Facebook pages throughout the area. The ad has been seen over 2100 times to date and will continue running for 3 more days. She also plans on putting it on the STR-STH website this weekend. She also noted that it has been sent as a blast email to the STR-STH email list, and The Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve has also shared the STR-STH post on Facebook on their Facebook page. Deb is also asking landowners who own properties that Stony Brook runs through, for permission to place monitors.
11. **Next meeting:** May 6, 2021, 6 PM via Zoom Online Conferencing
12. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn, at 6:55 PM, was made by P. Harris, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Bates  
NRWC Substitute scribe