



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

November 7, 2013

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, CT.

Attendees: Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Landers made a motion to seat East Lyme alternate Don Danila, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of October 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Dave Turner reviewed the monthly financial report provided by ECCD. Don Landers made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy and several NRWC members attended the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting on October 28th at UConn-Avery Point. Judy updated Work Group members on the status of NRWC water quality sampling. Judy has been communicating with Laura Ashburn at East Lyme High School regarding coordinating several activities with students, including a clean-up of Latimer Brook near the IGA Plaza, use of the Teacher Water Quality Loan Kit, and adoption of an RBV site within walking distance of the high school. RBV sampling is going well this year. Eight volunteers collected five samples from streams throughout the Niantic River watershed. Additionally, the East Lyme Conservation Commission collected samples from two sites on Cranberry Meadow Brook. Judy submitted an application to the America the Beautiful Urban Forestry grant program for a demonstration riparian buffer project at

Mago Park on Mago Point in Waterford. The Waterford-East Lyme Tree Filter project contract has been signed and the grant is now active. Judy will work with the towns of East Lyme and Waterford to plan and install up to ten tree filters in downtown Niantic and Mago Point. The ECCD Coastal Manure Management grant is wrapping up. Unfortunately, ECCD was not able to recruit any horse owners in East Lyme to participate in the program.

Eric Thomas commented that CT DEEP is interested in using RBV data to identify high quality or anticipated high quality stream segments. Don Danila requested we obtain verification from CT DEEP of the aquatic insect identification to see how accurate our identification from the field cards was.

6. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: Directors discussed creation of an annual NRWC report identifying Committee activities that would be submitted to the member towns. Judy will identify a simple format and put together a draft for directors to review. Don Landers stated that discussion between East Lyme and USGS regarding the re-establishment of the Latimer Brook stream gauge is proceeding.
- b. New Directors: Directors reviewed the current term expirations to identify which terms are expiring soon. Judy will send letters to the respective municipal CEOs informing them that reappointments are upcoming, and are supported by the Board. Dave Turner offered to follow up with Montville land-use commissioners. Judy will also contact the Salem first selectman regarding filling board vacancies for that town.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. 501c3: Dave Turner updated the Board on the status of the 501c3 application. All is proceeding well, and the application should be ready to be filed shortly.
- b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila updated the Board on the water quality monitoring in Latimer Brook. Don and Marvin visited the Aces High Campground on Rt. 161 and obtained permission to install temperature loggers in Cranberry Meadow and Latimer Brooks. This will allow John Jasper to calculate relative flow contribution from Cranberry Meadow Brook, and in turn estimate nitrate contribution from Cranberry Meadow Brook. Judy updated the group on the N-Sink presentation at the Nitrogen Work Group meeting. N-Sink is a decision support tool that predicts relative nitrogen removal from a waterbody based on adjacent land type (wetland, riparian buffer, etc.) that is being developed by URI and CLEAR. Don Danila submitted NRWC water quality data to the developers for use in calibrating the model. Directors discussed preparing a draft water quality monitoring report to share with municipalities and stakeholders.
- c. Education/Outreach Group: Judy previously discussed communication with Laura Ashburn at East Lyme High School. Eric Thomas informed directors about an upcoming webcast by EPA on engaging water quality monitor volunteers. Judy proposed rain garden and riparian buffer installation workshops for next spring,

continuing on work already started by the Committee, and possibly engaging the assistance of local nurseries/landscapers.

- d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Judy reviewed a few upcoming grant opportunities, including Dominion Foundation and EPOC. She also commented the CT Department of Agriculture Agricultural Viability grant deadline was extended to December. Eric Thomas commented on how to utilize/leverage raised funds, for instance, as match for other funding sources such as the CWA §319 program.
 - e. Audit Committee: The audit committee met in October and reviewed financial information currently managed by ECCD. This information will be included in ECCD annual audit. Until NRWC has been awarded non-profit status and established its own bank accounts, no further action is needed. Don Landers noted that once we have received 501c3 status, we will need to establish a membership committee
8. New Business:
- a. Watershed Signs: John Jasper met with Bill Scheer, the East Lyme Town Engineer, to discuss the installation of watershed signs. Bill was generally supportive of the idea. Judy prepared a map showing potential sign locations at major road crossings. Eric shared some information from CT DOT regarding sign standards for stream crossings. We will continue to gather information regarding this topic, including sign size and cost, CT DOT stream crossing signs, and gauge support from the watershed towns for sign installation.
9. Next meeting: December 5, 2013, 6 pm; East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.
10. Adjourn: Dave Turner made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator