



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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

FILED

Feb 23 2022 AT 11:30 AM/PM  
*[Signature]*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Minutes  
NRWC Board of Directors  
January 6, 2022, 6 pm  
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Dan Mullins, Interim NRWC Coordinator, Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Donald Danila, Town of East Lyme; Jaime Vaudry, University of Connecticut (guest), Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH (guest)

Excused: Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

1. **Call to Order:** Chair C. Tomichuk called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** No alternates were present to be seated.
3. **Review and Approval of October 2021 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve December Meeting minutes by D. Danila, seconded by D. Landers, motion passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented Treasurer's report. Our Bluehost website hosting was renewed for 3 years with officer approval. D. Landers moved to approve Treasurer's Report, second by S. Gonzalez, motion passed. D. Danila indicated that the annual audit is due. Audit Committee was selected to include Don Landers, Dave Turner, Rick Kanter, and Pete Harris
5. **NRWC Coordinator:** D. Mullins reviewed the Coordinator's Report and summarized the month's activities. Pending approval of DEEP funding and subcontract arrangements, J. Vaudry will transition with support from D. Mullins into the new NRWC Coordinator role.
6. **DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas followed up on grant funding for NRWC Coordinator for the transition of J. Vaudry. E. Thomas indicated that it was still going through the approval process.
7. **Old Business:**
  - Town Matters:**
    - D. Danila, D. Landers, and C. Tomichuk met with the new East Lyme First Selectman, Kevin Seery and provided him a copy of NRWC Watershed Work Plan Update. Mr. Seery indicated he is very interested in supporting initiatives to improve the Watershed. Current initiatives include upgrading the kayak launch and improving transient boating access to the Niantic River.
    - Discussed Noble Gas Station project status. D. Moshier-Dunn coordinated a ZOOM meeting with the property owner and Steve Trinkus. (Discussed further in Public Comment)
    - Discussed need to recruit new members for NRWC specifically to serve as alternates in Salem, Montville, and East Lyme.
    - Discussed pump-out boat funding issues. While Waterford and East Lyme agreed to support project, a cash advance is needed to begin fabrication.
    - Potluck for Preservationists have been postponed due to Covid-19.



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## **Subcommittee Updates:**

- Monitoring Group: Q4 precipitation monitoring has been completed. This precipitation event completes the 5-year term. Data from transducers deployed near Waterford solar site has been downloaded. D. Danila and D. Landers shipped and returned Stormwater Toolkit that was on loan from EPA.
- Education/Outreach Group: Discussed in Coordinator's Report.
- NRWPP Summit Committee: on hold due to pandemic.

## **8. New Business:**

- Downtown Niantic Watershed Museum: D. Mullins shared that he had received a call from Dave Fairman (Former Waterford Selectman / Eastern CT Community Garden) looking for the NRWC and ECCD to support a proposal for the creation of a Watershed Museum to be developed in the former State Police Building on Main Street (across from the Niantic Cinema). Following discussion on the matter, NRWC had concerns about the location and the potential for the initiative to impact the available funding opportunities that NRWC and STR-STH depend on.
- Plaque Presentation: D. Turner obtained a plaque for presentation to Ralph Bates for his service to the Committee as an East Lyme alternate. Consensus was to put off getting together for a presentation until spring due to weather and ongoing COVID issues.

## **9. Public Comments:**

- D. Moshier-Dunn provided summary of the meeting with the Noble Gas property owner to discuss implementation of specific engineering / design improvements and BMPs to mitigate impacts to Niantic River. The Property Owner is open to working with D. Moshier-Dunn and Steve Trinkus to develop ideas as long as his existing approvals are not jeopardized. E. Thomas suggested that the owner or Deb look into grant funding opportunities for the research / development of BMPs / engineering technology that was utilized for a similar project in Charlestown, RI.

**10. Next Meeting:** February 3, 2022, 6 PM via Zoom.

**11. Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn by D. Landers, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Bezanson".

Melissa Bezanson  
NRWC Secretary, Town of Salem Representative