



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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FILED

Sept 2 20 22 AT 8:15 AM PM

*Brooke Turner ATC*

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

## Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

May 5, 2022, 6 pm

Via ZOOM Online Conferencing

Attendees: Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme (alternate); Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Karen Bishop, Town of Waterford (alternate); Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (alternate); Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Maureen Fitzgerald (guest); Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH (guest)

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford

1. **Call to Order:** C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** D. Danila motioned to seat A. Cabaniss for vacant seat in Salem and K. Bishop for vacant seat in Montville, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, motion was approved.
3. **Review and Approval of April 7, 2022 meeting minutes:** D. Landers motioned to approve amended minutes, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, motion was approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented the Treasurer's report. D. Landers motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, motion was approved.
5. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey reviewed the Coordinator's report. NRWC will participate in Earthfest (June 11) and Celebrate East Lyme (July 16) and will need volunteers to help with those activities. J. Vaudrey will develop a watershed report card outline for NRWC review. Bacterial sampling will likely start in June and use a non-state certified lab for initial screening if funding sources approve. There was discussion of identifying projects in the Plan update with funding/partnership needs. E. Thomas suggested a subcommittee for that purpose. D. Danila mentioned that the ECCD could be a resource for ideas. Lastly, J. Vaudrey shared that there are funds still available for rain gardens and that money (\$250/applicant) could be requested for plants, design assistance, or in-ground planting.
6. **DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas reported on the East Lyme Land Trust acquisition of the Nehantic Nature Preserve. Discussed potential for a presentation or site visit with Art Carlson or perhaps a panel discussion with ELLT and other groups during the Watershed Summit. The state integrated water quality report is not available yet, but it should be out at the end of May, followed by a Zoom presentation.
7. **Old Business:**
  - a. Town Matters: P. Harris mentioned that the responsible lawn care article was printed in the Lyme Times.

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### **8. Subcommittee Updates:**

- a. **Monitoring Group**: D. Danila still needs to collect the final quarterly wet weather samples. The WELSCO weather station has been inoperable since April 14. P. Harris will contact DA/BA for more information. Waterford stream temperature data download planned for June. M. Fitzgerald reported that the solar panels are going up at the Waterford solar site. E. Thomas will check with the DEEP fisheries group on fish sampling plan for the summer.
- b. **Education/Outreach Group**: E. Thomas mentioned that the 4-town bioretention and biofiltration project is ongoing. Opportune time for additional community outreach following installation of rain gardens, tree filters, and storm drain filters, especially in Montville and Salem. Project needs to finish up by end of summer.
- c. **NRWPP Update Summit Committee**: Planning on hold due to Covid.

### **9. New Business: None**

### **10. Public Comments:** D. Moshier-Dunn shared the following information:

- a. **Waterford POCD** - Town of Waterford will be soliciting input for the POCD. The town asked Waterford Land Trust to put together a list of their properties and the priority uses for them. STR-STH and WLT will be asking for a line item in town budget for conservation (which it doesn't currently have).
- b. **Boat shrink wrap recycling program** - D. Landers will contact Suzanne Thompson for more information on the program and share with local marinas and yacht clubs. P. Harris suggested The Day could advertise the initiative. E. Thomas mentioned the nip bottle surcharge and pointed out that nonprofits can propose uses for the money received by the towns (e.g., for recycling coordination).
- c. **Stormwater District** - D. Moshier-Dunn will be speaking with attorney Tom Londregan about working with towns to adopt a stormwater district, and will update the NRW. E. Thomas encouraged towns to consider a stormwater utility because municipal budgets and infrastructure are strained, and referenced the [UCONN CLEAR webinar](#) on establishment of the South Burlington, VT stormwater utility. M. Fitzgerald mentioned that the COG received funding for a study on community willingness, need, and benefits from a stormwater utility.

### **11. Next meeting:** June 2, 2022, 6 PM, via Zoom.

### **12. Adjournment:** D. Landers motioned to adjourn at 7:00 PM, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Gonzalez".

Susan Gonzalez  
Town of East Lyme Representative

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