



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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EAST LYME, CT

2022 NOV -2 P 1:08

Council Hill
TOWN CLERK

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors Meeting

September 1, 2022, 6 PM

Virtual via Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme (alternate); David Turner, Town of Montville; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Maureen Fitzgerald (guest)

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (alternate)

1. **Call to Order:** C. Tomichuk called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** D. Danila motioned to seat A. Cabaniss for Town of Salem seat, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, motion passed.
3. **Review and Approval of August 4, 2022, meeting minutes:** D. Danila motioned to approve the minutes as amended, with item 7a corrected to read "K. Bishop is moving out of Waterford...", seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, motion passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented the Treasurer's report. D. Landers motioned to approve Treasurer's report, seconded by A. Cabaniss. All in favor, motion passed.
5. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey reviewed the Coordinator's report. J. Vaudrey contacted EPOC and SWEP to request a no-cost extension for stormwater outfall bacterial sampling due to lack of wet weather and to confirm that it is acceptable to analyze samples at the Vaudrey lab. Letter to the Dominion Foundation will be sent to S. Gonzalez for forwarding to the appropriate contact. A. Cabaniss and J. Vaudrey described EnviroScape models and possibilities for development of outreach materials for Dominion Foundation grant application due September 30. J. Vaudrey reported unusually high bacterial counts from samples collected for STR-STH during August 23 rain event (Banning Cove, Niantic River arm, and Kiddie's Beach). Ledge Light Health District posted an alert that bacterial levels were high throughout the area the same week.
6. **DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas highlighted 4-town bioretention project retrofit progress in Waterford and East Lyme. Montville school rain garden plant installation delayed until September due to drought. All retrofits wrapping up by end of September and Dan Mullins to submit summary report. Next 319 grant round will be announced first week of October. DEEP fisheries will conduct stream fish sampling next week in Oil Mill Brook and Stony Brook.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Town Matters:** P. Harris mentioned public hearing on proposed second oyster farm in Niantic Bay.



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- b. Dominion Foundation Grant: Applications accepted Aug 1 to Sep 30, 2022. Discussion in Coordinator's report on Enviroscape models.

8. Subcommittee Updates:

a. Monitoring Group:

- D. Danila contacted Joe Cassone at CT DEEP regarding upcoming fish sampling in Oil Mill and Stony Brooks.
- 10-year monitoring report still in progress.
- Tidbit temperature data logger retrieval delayed until September.
- USGS stream gage levels recorded in Latimer Brook at near or all-time low. Two storms in August resulted in temporary increases in stream flow. CT DEEP recorded low numbers of alewife passing through the Latimer Brook fishway in 2022 and numbers were exceptionally low coastwide.
- Shrimp and juvenile menhaden kill at Golden Spur/Banning Cove area. D. Danila wasn't able to take water quality measurements, but high temperatures and low flows likely resulted in low dissolved oxygen. M. Fitzgerald discussed this with Steve Gephard who agreed fish died due to low DO from high water temperatures and that this was a natural phenomenon.
- CT DEEP final 2021 RBV report available. D. Danila discussed possibility of forgoing 2022 RBV sampling due to low stream flows and scouting for new sampling site in Cranberry Meadow Brook with better riffle areas.

- b. Education/Outreach Group: No additional updates other than those provided in Coordinator's report.

- c. NRWPP Update Summit Committee: No update.

9. New Business:

- a. J. Vaudrey received an email from Suzanne Thompson regarding erosion of retaining wall at Grimsey Beach. S. Thompson talked with Waterford first selectman and Parks and Recreation director about adding plants to that area. She also inquired about possibility of town repairing the retaining wall. M. Fitzgerald said boat wake can lead to deterioration. That area may be a good site for demonstration of a living shoreline, but unlikely to get a permit for retaining wall.

10. Public Comments:

- a. Eversource tree removal along transmission corridor lines resulted in exposed soil near Oil Mill Brook. M. Fitzgerald added that clearing was performed according to permit from the Siting Council and Eversource performed some stabilization (seed, hay mulch, hay bales) to minimize erosion.
- b. Digging for storage tanks underway at Noble Energy gas station site. Steve Trinkaus will walk the site and send a review.
- c. STR-STH Kayak Regatta successful.



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- d. STR-STH pump out boat is almost ready. Engine expected to arrive in about 2 weeks.
 - e. Eelgrass transplanting in Niantic River planned and will need for volunteers to weave eelgrass.
11. **Next meeting:** October 6, 2022, 6 PM, via Zoom
12. **Adjournment:** D. Landers motion to adjourn at 7:30 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