



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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2023 FEB -1 A 9:13

*Cassie Hill*  
TOWN CLERK

## Minutes

### NRWC Board of Directors

December 1, 2022, 6 pm

### Via ZOOM Online Conferencing

Attendees: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem, Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission, Maureen Fitzgerald, Town of Waterford Conservation Commission, Deb-Moshier-Dunn, STRSTH

Excused: Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme (alternate); Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (alternate)

1. **Call to Order:** C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** No alternates present.
3. **Review and Approval of November 2022 meeting minutes:** D. Danila motioned to approve meeting minutes, seconded by D. Turner, all in favor, motion was approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila reviewed the Treasurer's report. D. Turner motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by D. Turner. All in favor, motion was approved. D. Danila motioned to approve an invoice from J. Vaudrey for reimbursement of expenses incurred for promotional merchandise (tote bags and brochures) for E.L. Day over the summer, totaling \$659.64. Motion was seconded by D. Landers, all in favor, motion carried.
5. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey reviewed the coordinator's report. Discussion continued regarding the Watershed Report Card format and intended use / distribution. E. Thomas noted that the 8-Mile River Watershed report card was well received from the public because it was distributed via hardcopy / mass mailing. The group discussed utilizing the STRSTH mailing list and utilize small local papers.

**DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas noted that the DEEP Watershed program posted the RFP associated with the NPS Grant and encouraged the NRWC to submit a project proposal, due in February. New priorities include uploading data to water quality data EPA database to increase utilization / implementation. Up to 40% of available funding be applied to projects in communities identified as "Environmental Justice Communities" (Montville within the NRW). The DEEP is encouraging match funding. The group briefly discussed a potential fish passage project along Oil Mill Brook in partnership with Save the Sound.

### 6. Old Business:

- a. **Town Matters:** Discussed proposed residential development project on Woodchuck Road in Salem that will impact the headwaters of Latimer Brook. The Salem Inland Wetlands Agency and Conservation Commission is currently reviewing the application, and a public hearing is scheduled for Monday December 5, 2022. The group discussed



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writing a letter reminding the Salem IWA of the NRWC interests in these matters, referring them to our Watershed Plan, suggesting that low impact development BMPs be required. D. Danila offered to draft the letter and circulate to the board for review over the weekend.

- b. Doug Lawson has resigned from the Committee. The NRWC now needs two representatives from the Town of Waterford. The First Selectman needs to be notified so that the positions can be filled.
- c. Waterford POCD outreach meetings will be occurring in January. Maureen requested that a representative of the NRWC to be at the meeting and be a point of contact when issues arise.

### **7. Subcommittee Updates:**

- a. Monitoring Group: D. Danila reported that he is still working on the draft monitoring report.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: See Coordinator's Report. Need to designate a leader for this group. Also discussed Hole in the Wall classroom event – TBD.
- c. NRWPP Update Summit Committee: Discussed reconvening to discuss potential summit in June 2023.

### **8. New Business:** Woodchuck Road Development (refer to Town Matters)

**Public Comments:** Pump out boat has been delivered, launch program in May 2023. Noble Gas project has had some erosion and sedimentation control issues, however the owner has responsive and handled the matter with his contractor. Waterford Land trust acquired a 16 acre parcel in the northwest corner of Waterford in the vicinity of Pepper Road.

9. **Next meeting:** January 5, 2023, 6 PM, via Zoom.

10. **Adjournment:** D. Landers motioned to adjourn at 7:45 PM, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bezanson  
Town of Salem