



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

<https://www.nianticriverwatershed.org/>

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EAST LYME, CT

2024 JUN -5 A 8: 28

Campbell
TOWN CLERK

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors Meeting

April 4, 2024, 6 PM

Attendees: Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Jim Paganetti, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme (alternate); Nate Hermann, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (alternate); Dan Mullins, ECCD (guest)

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission

1. **Call to Order:** C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** D. Danila moved to seat A. Cabaniss in place of M. Bezanson, seconded by J. Paganetti. All in favor, motion passed.
3. **Review and Approval of March meeting minutes:** One correction noted. D. Danila moved to approve March meeting minutes as amended, seconded by A. Cabaniss. Motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 1 abstention.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented the Treasurer's report. P. Harris motioned to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by J. Paganetti. All in favor, motion passed.
5. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey reviewed the Coordinator's report.
 - a. Niantic River Watershed Report Card: J. Vaudrey will contact Martin Hain with Save the Sound to request a cost estimate for report card design and printing.
 - b. Hole in the Wall project: Marjorie Meekhoff will reach out to the town of East Lyme for assistance with mugwort control at the site prior to any planting.
 - c. Earthfest is May 18 and Celebrate East Lyme is July 20.
6. **Town Matters:**
 - a. Penny Heller has arranged an online community resilience building workshop with Sustainable CT and The Nature Conservancy scheduled for April 15 if anyone is interested in attending. Registration available until the day of the workshop.
 - b. D. Danila reported on the 91 Boston Post Road housing development application. Zoning Commission agendas and materials available on the EL Town Hall website.
7. **Old Business:** None



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8. Subcommittee Updates:

a. Monitoring Group:

- Bacterial sampling planned for June. Sampling locations will be scouted in May and training sessions with volunteers will be held in early June. If bacterial hotspots are identified in the broader study, sites can be re-sampled in July and sent out for environmental DNA analysis to differentiate bacterial sources of targeted mammal and waterfowl species. STR-STH will conduct bacterial trackdown sampling in Keeny Cove and Stony Brook.
- Regional eelgrass studies – Cornell replanted eelgrass shoots in the Niantic River last fall following die-off of eelgrass shoots planted Fall 2022. Observations will be made on planting area soon. Sea Grant-funded study in Beebe Cove (Mystic Harbor) beginning this summer with Sixpenny Oyster Farm and UCONN Marine Sciences to assess interactions between eelgrass and oyster aquaculture gear.
- Waterford solar site temperature data retrieval postponed until later in the Spring.

- #### **b. Website:** A. Cabaniss and N. Hermann presented recent improvements to the NRWC website. They are looking for volunteers to write material for website sections.

9. **New Business:** D. Mullins presented ideas for a 2025 Long Island Sound Futures Fund common grant proposal with other watershed committees. Potential suggestion included a) investing in equipment to assist municipalities with maintenance of stormwater BMPs (e.g., vacuum truck, storm drain filters), b) residential education and outreach on nonpoint source pollution, and c) additional water quality monitoring. These grants require a 50% match. J. Vaudrey added she's been involved in a project using predicted household fertilizer use and nitrogen loading data that can be used to target fertilizer behavior-change campaigns to areas that will have the most impact.
10. **Public Comments:** R. Kanter retiring from the NRWC. P. Harris will solicit a volunteer from WELSCO to fill R. Kanter's position on the NRWC.
11. **Next meeting:** May 2, 2024, 6 PM in the downstairs break room.
12. **Adjournment:** D. Danila motioned to adjourn at 7:13 PM, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gonzalez
Town of East Lyme