



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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

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EAST LYME, CT

2025 NOV -4 P 6:56

Karen Hill
TOWN CLERK

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors Meeting

September 4, 2025, 6 PM

Attendees: Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Nate Hermann, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Amy Cabaniss; Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator (online); Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme

Excused: Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Jim Paganetti, Town of Waterford

1. **Call to Order:** S. Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** Motion by D. Danila to seat A. Cabaniss for the Town of Salem, seconded by D. Landers. Motion passes.
3. **No welcomes and introductions**
4. **Review and Approval of August 7 minutes:** On the last line of page 1, "CLEER" was corrected to "CLEAR." D. Landers moves to approve as amended, D. Turner seconds. Motion passes.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented the treasurer's report. D. Landers moves to approve the report as presented, D. Turner seconds. Motion passes.
6. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey provided a coordinator's report on the following topics.
 - a. Bacterial Sampling - Water sampling happened at 8 different locations today (September 4th). Each site was found to have at least trickling water enabling collection for both bacteria and eDNA. Because the water flow was low, it took a great deal of time to get enough water to filter for the eDNA
 - b. Report Card - Jaime will be catching up with Deb for information from the listening session she held. Will set up a listening session for NRWC group this month. Looked at potential dates that will work for the most amount of committee members. Best proposed date is the 9th, Jaime will get a room at Town Hall reserved for 6pm.
 - c. Envirosapes - Putting together the lesson plans and inventory. Amy and Jamie will review these at the end of the month to determine if there is more to do.
 - d. Hole in the Wall - Need to get back in touch with Dave Dixon soon to get dates as those are targeted for November.
 - e. Larry Tytla is away now, but still interested in joining. To do so, he has to go to East Lyme to get sworn in and Jaime will share the bylaws with him if she hasn't done so already.
7. **Town Matters:**
 - a. Rain Garden at ELHS, unsure of the status of it right now but likely needs some maintenance. D. Danila will talk with Laura at the Conservation Commission meeting about if her students from the



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Ecology Club are interested in doing that work. Still have funds in Rain Garden grants, so if the students can put together a simple idea for something, like new plants, they can petition for funds from us to do so.

- b. Eelgrass survey results from Millstone in the Niantic River, the recent site for sampling was entirely absent in June and the only location where eelgrass was found was just outside Smith Cove. On a related note, dredging needs to happen at the Yacht Club which may impact the eelgrass there which may be very expensive, considering suction dredging and beach renourishment. Lastly, Save the Sound is doing a gluing of eelgrass to clams as a restoration method throughout the Sound.
8. **Old Business:** None.
9. **Subcommittee Updates:**
 - a. Monitoring Group: RBV is going to be done joint with the Conservation Commission again this year.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: None.
10. **Eastern CT Watershed Network Updates:** Last meeting was on August 20th with a follow-up with the core members on the 25th. Each watershed committee representative provided an update on their committees. As a group, voted on the topics for the five small events that will happen over the funding cycle, first should be at the end September or in October.
11. **New Business:** Monitoring subcommittee meeting should be pushed from October to November, reflected in schedule below.
12. **Public Comments:** None.
13. **Next meeting:** October 2, 2025, 6 PM.
14. **Adjourn:** D. Danila moves to adjourn, D. Landers seconds. Meeting adjourned at 6:43.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Hermann
Town of Montville
Secretary