



## **Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.**

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

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
JAN -7 A 8:32  
EAST LYME, CT

### **Minutes**

#### **NRWC Board of Directors Meeting**

**November 6, 2025, 6 PM**

Attendees: Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme; Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Jim Paganetti, Town of Waterford; Nate Hermann, Town of Montville; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme

Excused: Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission

1. **Call to Order:** S. Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** Motion by D. Danila to seat A. Cabaniss for the Town of Salem, seconded by J. Paganetti. Motion passes.
3. **Welcomes and Introductions** Josh Cassidy, Conn College Student, East Lyme; Dominic Anziano, SECOG
4. **Review and Approval of October 2 Minutes:** J. Paganetti moves to approve minutes as provided. D. Danila seconds. Motion passes.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented a treasurer's report with an updated dividend interest from the previous month's meeting. C. Tomichek moves to approve the report as spoken. P. Harris seconds. Motion passes.
6. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey provided a coordinator's report on the following topics.
  - a. Hole in the Wall – J. Vaudrey reported that the workshop was a success. 41 total attendees including all the speakers (23-24 attendees). Public House worked very well and were very accommodating and Coffees was good too as vendors for food and drink at the workshop.
    - i. Have money left over (because speakers turned down being paid): \$3024.08. What do we want to do with that?
      1. Niantic River bulletins are low and have not been in 4 years.
      2. Pollinator Pathways may accept a donation for plant purchases to put in a pollinator garden at Hole in the Wall.
      3. Consider stormwater materials for handing out at ongoing events. Miscellaneous promotional ideas provided they support healthy watersheds.
  - b. EnviroScape – Riley is nearly done reviewing lesson plans and scripts from Enviroscapes to make an index of usefulness for borrowers to access the most relevant to the Niantic. Amy is modifying a Niantic specific script to include as well in the next week or so.



# **Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.**

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

- c. Bacteria sampling – Have 7-8 kits left, will discuss future samples at Monitoring subcommittee. J. Vaudrey came with a recent data. A summary of major findings is as follows:
  - i. Over limits for all brooks for total coliform.
  - ii. E. coli in freshwater (degrades in saltwater) and Enterococcus for fresh and saltwater have big hits for Oil Mill Brook at Gurley and Stony Brook at US Rt 1.
  - iii. Human is overwhelming source of eDNA to these systems, but also had intermittent hits for Swine, Bovine, Chicken, and Dog somewhat especially when the bacterial samples were also high. Probable linkage to malfunctioning septic.

## **7. Town Matters:**

- a. P. Harris, season opens on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Did seed and are hoping to get more before it gets too cold.
- b. D. Danila went to East Lyme Commission when the tree farm was requesting additional sewage (95000 gallons) to the site, but they were denied despite his not having an opportunity for comment. Expect the project to continue.

## **8. Old Business:**

- a. A. Cabaniss and D. Danila have been looking into more hats with comparative shopping being done. Best option (Maho Apparel) provides embroidery for a \$50 one-time fee and \$27 each hat for a first order. Will proceed with a full quote and take a vote next meeting.
- b. Enviroscape loan agreement (up to \$100 for item replacements and may ask for compensation up to full cost if not returned) will be sent around and approved next month.

## **9. Subcommittee Updates:**

- a. Monitoring Group: The Monitoring Group meets immediately after the NRWC Board Meeting. May not need them to continue as a subcommittee meeting, instead providing relevant updates to the whole board. RBV sampling to assess the stream quality has continued with high school students, but is changing to potentially be taken over by a representative from the CT NERR (Ashley Hamilton). Training classes haven't occurred often from DEEP, but ECCD can do them sometimes.
- b. Education/Outreach Group: Any updates to website will be presented at next month's meeting. Photos are especially accepted.

- 10. **Eastern CT Watershed Network Updates**: Large Event Planning is happening and is intended to serve as a forum to bring the different watersheds together in one place. Date is TBD, but expect to happen at Project O. Meeting on Monday to discussing Large Event, will continue to update.

## **11. New Business:**

- a. Need the 2026 meeting dates to reserve the room. Jan 1 is a holiday, so want the Jan 8 instead. Motion for D. Danila to request the EL Conference Room to hold meetings on



## ***Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.***

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

the First Thursday of each month with the exception of January. C. Tomichek second.  
Motion passes.

- b. Dominion Foundation grants likely in February and August 2026, think about grant applications on the smaller scale, ~\$4000.
- c. Erik Mas is willing to do grant writing and management, NRWC would most likely to serve as a support organization as it is above our capacity. Dan Mullins will talk to Maureen Fitzgerald as ECCD and Fuss and O'Neill would be the primaries on these size of projects.
- d. Dave Turner is stepping down after his appointment expires in December.

12. **Public Comments:** None.

13. **Next meeting:** December 4th, 6pm.

14. **Adjourn:** D. Danila moves to adjourn, J. Paganetti second

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nathan Hermann  
Town of Montville



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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

## Addendum to the NRWC Agenda

### 2025 Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in-person with an option to call in remotely by phone or Webex.

In-person meetings are held in Conference Room 1 of the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic CT.

6 PM Meetings	Notes	Room in East Lyme Town Hall	Login To Use for Remote Attendance
1/9/25	Not on 1st Th, due to holiday	Conference Room 1	A
2/6/25		Conference Room 1	A
3/6/25	+ Monitoring Mtg to follow	Conference Room 1	A
4/3/25		Conference Room 1	A
5/1/25		Conference Room 1	A
6/5/25		Conference Room 1	A
7/10/25	Not on 1st Th, due to holiday	Conference Room 1	B
8/7/25		Downstairs	A
9/4/25		Conference Room 1	A
10/2/25		Conference Room 1	A
11/6/25	+ Monitoring Mtg to follow	Conference Room 1	A
12/4/25		Conference Room 1	A

### (A) Login To Use for Remote Attendance

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m58045b3a30cf549f7e063602ee982ca4>

Meeting number: 2630 504 4006

Meeting Password: NRWC

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll

### (B) Login To Use for Remote Attendance

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=mbad0727ca947a67e74bc764c76726bf4>

Meeting number: 2634 003 8642

Meeting Password: NRWC

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll