



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

August 6, 2015, 6 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
August 26, 2015 AT 3:25 AM/PM
John Jasper, Jr.
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Tom Bowen, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Fran Violante, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Aaron Pauley, Niantic resident.

Excused: Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Doug Lawson made a motion to seat Ralph Bates and Peter Harris, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of July 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Doug Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. Tom Bowen made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Ralph Bates. All in favor, motion passes. Don reported that a NRWC checking account has been established, with Chris Tomichek and him as signatories.
 - a. Formation of an Audit Sub-committee: Don Danila made a motion to form an Audit Sub-committee to provide oversight of NRWC finances. The Vice Chair of the NRWC Board of Directors will be an *ex officio* member and chair of this sub-committee, which will have two or more additional members appointed by the Board. The Audit Sub-committee should perform, at minimum, one audit per year and take on any additional responsibilities as approved by the Board. The motion was seconded by Dave Turner. Following brief discussion, the motion was amended such that the Audit Sub-committee would perform one audit per year and report the results of audit to the Board, and take on any additional responsibilities associated with financial matters as requested by the Board. Dave Turner seconded the amended

motion. All in favor, motion passes. Ralph Bates offered to serve on this subcommittee.

5. Coordinator's Report: Judy has been invited to appear on Suzanne Thompson's Connecticut Outdoors radio program on August 11th to talk about the Niantic River and what property owners can do to reduce water pollution. Judy has also been asked to present information on stormwater management practices to the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources on August 12th. Judy, Don Danila, and Aaron Pauley deployed three temperature loggers in Latimer and Cranberry Meadow Brooks on July 22nd. Judy, Victor Benni, East Lyme Town Engineer, and Lisa Vaudreille, an East Lyme elementary school teacher, will be meeting with the new school superintendent on August 17th to discuss the bio-retention garden at East Lyme High School. The tree filter project in Niantic is complete. Development of informational signage is underway. Judy has spoken with the interim Waterford planner regarding the status of the Mago Point redevelopment project, and the project is still moving forward.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: Per discussion at the July meeting, Judy will draft a letter to Rand Whitney regarding potential funding for the Latimer Brook stream gauge.
 - b. Watershed Signs: Judy has not had an opportunity to follow up at this time.
7. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the July water sampling results. He noted that flow has been very low, and nitrate levels have been relatively high. He has purchased a new pH probe for the YSI, but has had difficulty with the calibration. Don reviewed the stream temperature data retrieved from Cranberry Meadow Brook and the unnamed tributary from the Antares solar site. It appears that subsequent to the development of the site, the tributary has warmed up. However, there does not appear to be a significant temperature change in Cranberry Meadow Brook. Don also reviewed the Latimer Brook/Cranberry Meadow Brook temperature data. Don ran the data through a regression analysis and determined that based on data collected downstream of the confluence, Cranberry Meadow Brook contributes about 1/3 of the water volume, while Latimer Brook contributes about 2/3 of the water volume. This correlates well with previous calculations made by John Jasper.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 - c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Eric Thomas reported that CT DEEP anticipates an announcement regarding the FY 2016 CWA §319 grant round in the near future. Discussion followed regarding a possible application relating to the updating of the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan (NRWPP) to reflect the many Plan implementations that have been completed since the Plan was written in 2006. Doug Lawson reported that he has been following up on a foundation grant program offered by Pratt & Whitney.

8. New Business:
 - a. Purchase of NRWC banner for outreach events – Ruth researched the cost of banners, and determined that a 5 foot long by 2½ foot high banner would be \$60-\$70. Dave Turner made a motion to purchase a banner for outreach events, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - b. Membership: Following the recent approval of our 501c3 application, do we want to revisit the issue of membership to the watershed committee? Directors will review the by-laws regarding membership. This item will be placed on the September agenda for discussion.

9. Public Comments: Don Danila announced that he has been appointed to the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources. Chris Tomichuk noted that East Lyme residents voted to approve the purchase of the Niantic River Headwaters Preserve land. Eric Thomas commented on a pending DOT permit to replace the bridge on Route 1 in East Lyme and Waterford.

10. Next meeting: September 3, 2015, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.

11. Adjourn: Dave Turner made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

