



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 10²⁰ 14 AT 2:15 AM PM
Karen Sullivan, Clerk
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Minutes
NRWC Board of Directors
May 3, 2012, 6:00pm
914 Hartford Tpk – 2nd Flr, Waterford, CT

Attendees: Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville (appt. pending); Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: Elbert Burr, Town of Salem; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford.

Guest: Stuart Mattison.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Chris Tomichek made a motion to seat East Lyme alternate Don Danila for Doug Lawson, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of April 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes: The "next meeting date" was incorrectly listed as June 7th rather than May 3rd. Ruth Savalle made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Budget Review: Treasurer Dave Turner reviewed the budget. The account has approximately \$2100, most of which is grant funds earmarked to specific projects. Don Landers presented the grant award from Dominion Foundation in the amount of \$6667 to the Coordinator. The Coordinator read the award letter from Dominion Foundation into the record. Discussion followed regarding the need to revisit the watershed towns regarding our earlier request for funding for the Coordinator position. Ruth Savalle reported that Salem may have funds available in the Inland Wetlands Commission budget. Don Landers noted that informing the towns that we are pursuing non-profit status may be a selling point, in that our goal is to be self-sustaining.
5. Coordinator Report: Judy reviewed her activities for the previous month. She reported that the application sent to EPOC for funding for water quality testing



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materials was approved. On April 13th the Monitoring subcommittee conducted its first water quality testing of Latimer Brook. Sampling went well. The Clark Pond riparian buffer project received approval from the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Commission. The first planting will take place on May 22nd.

6. Old Business:

- a. Informational Brochures: Eric Thomas noted that at last month's meeting we had discussed possible funding sources to create informational brochures. He stated that the Rivers Alliance might be having another grant round and it would be reasonable to submit an application to fund brochure creation.
- b. Long Island Sound Futures Fund Grant: Judy briefly summarized the grant application submitted by Jamie Vaudrey for Niantic River data analysis. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of a unified data analysis to river managers, and to NRWC for planning outreach and implementation activities.

7. Subcommittee Updates

- a. 501c3: Dave Turner reported that a few decisions needed to be made regarding the Articles of Incorporation, particularly concerning the status of CT DEEP as a board member. Don Landers made a motion to revise the By-laws to list CT DEEP as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Board of Directors, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes. Discussion followed regarding potential fund raising activities.
- b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reported that the monitoring group conducted the first sampling on April 13th. Despite an initial issue with the YSI meter (it locked up), sampling went well. Several sites had to be changed due to accessibility issues and the presence of multiple channels, and sampling flow was challenging due to very low flow at several sampling sites. Flow sampling will be discussed at the next Monitoring Group meeting. Don also reported that he was not able to test for nitrogen at all the sites because the reagent ran out. Dave Turner asked if it was possible to calculate flow based on the contributing watershed area, geologic conditions, et cetera. Discussion ensued regarding the value of having flow data to calculate nitrogen flux.
- c. Education/Outreach Group: Marvin introduced guest Stuart Mattison, who was attending this evening's meeting. Stuart is an educator at the Sound School in New Haven, CT. Marvin had contacted Stuart to see if he was interested in participating on the Outreach/Education Committee. Don Landers announced that Jim Marco has offered to seed the Niantic River with oysters. Marvin noted that he will continue to contact potential Outreach/Education participants, and will keep the Board updated on his efforts.



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8. New Business:
 - a. Celebrate East Lyme Day: Discussion took place regarding possible fund-raising activities, including stickers or bottled water to be sold at Celebrate East Lyme Day. Directors discussed developing a trifold brochure to distribute at the event. Marvin noted that we don't want to be confused with Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills. Don Landers asked if anyone had spoken with Fred Grimsey recently about the NRWC activities. Marvin said he would touch base with Fred. Eric asked if we had discussed establishing a liaison with STR-STH. Judy stated that Fred is still a member of the Monitoring Group and receives all communications. Additional discussion focused on what displays we should set up, including promoting the water quality monitoring program. Directors agreed that "hands-on" exhibits are best.
 - b. Potluck Supper: Marvin updated the group on a proposed potluck supper this summer. Dave Turner suggested we have a trip on the river. Several directors offered the use of their boats.
 - c. DEEP Water Quality Assessment: Eric Thomas reported that DEEP is preparing the draft biannual Water Quality Assessment. The draft report should be available for review and comment in the coming month or so. Eric also stated that NRWC should keep an eye on any Rt. 11 developments, as Latimer Brook would be significantly impacted if the project went forward.
9. Next meeting: June 7, 2012, 6 PM, 914 Hartford Tpk – 2nd Flr, Waterford, CT.
10. Adjourn: Marvin Schutt made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 PM, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, the motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rondeau".

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator