



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

July 11, 2013

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
JULY 10 2014 AT 2:15 AM/PM
Caitlin Galbraith
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville; David Turner, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Marvin Schutt made a motion to seat East Lyme alternate Don Danila and WELSCO alternate Peter Harris, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of June 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Marvin Schutt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Jasper. Eric Thomas identified an error in Item 9 - Next Meeting. The date should have read July 11th, not June 6th. The motion on the table was amended to include the correction to Item 9. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Judy Rondeau reviewed the budget. Don Landers made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Marvin Schutt. All in favor, report is accepted.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy reviewed her activities for the previous month. She has contacted Adam Whelchel of The Nature Conservancy, who led a coastal risk workshop with several coastal towns including Waterford and East Lyme. Judy will invite Mr. Whelchel to attend a meeting later this year (September/October). Judy is preparing materials for the upcoming Celebrate East Lyme Day event (July 20th) and would welcome volunteers to assist with outreach. Informational signage was installed at the Colony Road tree filter site in June. Judy met with East Lyme and Waterford staff to discuss the upcoming tree filter installations, also in June. ECCD continues to recruit horse farms for the Coastal Equine Manure Management grant project.

6. Old Business:
 - a. Town Appeals: No new information.
 - b. Work Plan Review: Subsequent to discussion at the June meeting, Judy added a section at the end of the work plan to document activities that have been completed. Judy will send a copy of the updated work plan and the brochure to the watershed municipalities.
 - c. Celebrate East Lyme Day: Eric Thomas provided Long Island Sound Study literature for the event. Ruth Savalle and John Jasper offered to man the booth.
 - d. Watershed Progress Report: No new activity on this item.

7. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. 501c3: Directors discussed retaining an attorney or CPA to assist with the 501c3 application review and filing. Doug Lawson will speak with an acquaintance about assisting with the application.
 - b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila updated the Board on the water quality monitoring in Latimer Brook. Don suggested that it might be beneficial to plot nitrates versus rainfall to see if there is an association. John Jasper offered to plot the data. Judy will send out some target dates in August for conducting stream walks of Latimer Brook and Cranberry Meadow Brook.
 - c. Education/Outreach Group: Judy noted that Celebrate East Lyme Day will be a major outreach opportunity for the Committee. She is planning to focus on NRWC activities over the last year. Directors noted that *The Day* article about the Latimer Brook stream gauge garnered much attention and provided a good outreach and education.
 - d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Eric Thomas informed the Board that CT DEEP has announced the upcoming §319 grant round. The Niantic River watershed is a high priority due to the approved Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan and projects that have already been completed in the watershed. Eric urged the Committee to explore potential projects as identified in the NRWC Work Plan. Don Landers suggested initiating discussion with East Lyme engineer Bill Scheer regarding potential projects to address storm drainage discharging to the Niantic River from the Grand Street boat launch area.
 - e. Audit Committee: No new information.

8. New Business:
 - a. Nitrogen Work Group Updates: Members who attended the meeting updated the Board. Don Landers stated that the lab at UConn/Avery Point has begun processing water samples collected by Dominion/MEL last year; Jamie Vaudrey of UConn is developing an eelgrass suitability index model based on data collection throughout LIS; John Mullaney will update the USGS Niantic River watershed study with an additional year's data that he collected, as well as the groundwater study at Pine Grove; Eric Thomas will be preparing an article on the

Niantic River for the fall issue of Sound Outlook; Holly Drinkuth of The Nature Conservancy is working on a habitat suitability project in the Saugatuck River watershed that may have transferability to the Niantic watershed. Don also reported that the MEL June eelgrass survey indicated that eelgrass in the Niantic is beginning to recolonize.

- b. NRWC Picnic – Sat. Aug. 3rd: Directors discussed details of the picnic, including when to meet, boats, food and so forth. Judy will coordinate with Marvin and Rick to hash out details.
 - c. Additional Directors: Salem needs one director and one alternate. Waterford needs an alternate. Directors will brainstorm about possible candidates and bring information back to the Board next month.
9. Next meeting: Aug. 1, 2013, 6 pm; East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.
10. Adjourn: Doug Lawson made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator