



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes
NRWC Board of Directors
October 4, 2012, 6:00pm
914 Hartford Tpk – 2nd Flr, Waterford, CT

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 10 2014 AT 2:15 AM/PM
Kathryn Galt
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; 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; Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville (appt. pending); Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Ruth Savalle made a motion to seat East Lyme alternate Don Danila, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of September 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, with one abstention, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dave Turner 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. A Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers (RBV) workshop was held on Sept. 15th. Approximately 29 people attended. Judy scouted for RBV sites with the assistance of Maureen Fitzgerald, the Waterford Environmental Planner. The Teacher Water Quality Loan Kit was finalized and went out on Oct. 4th with a Waterford High School science class to sample Jordan Brook. Judy updated the Board on ECCD grant projects in the Niantic River watershed.

Subsequent to the Coordinator's Report, discussion included potential funding sources to maintain the Latimer Brook USGS stream gauge. It was decided that Don Landers would speak with John Mullaney of USGS and Judy would speak with Jon Morrison of USGS about methods to keep the stream gauge active.



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

6. Old Business:

- a. Saunders Point Sewer letter: Members updated the Board regarding an application to develop Oswegatchie Hills. Marvin Schutt and Rick Kanter will work together to develop a letter to address the need for sewerage of Saunders Point to submit to the land use boards.
- b. Town Appeals: Prior to additional discussion with East Lyme and Waterford, the watershed brochure needs to be completed.

7. Subcommittee Updates

- a. 501c3: Dave Turner reported that he spoke with Attorney Branse in September. Attorney Branse confirmed that all the necessary components of the Articles of Incorporation were included in the draft document, and advised that we should proceed with filing for incorporation. Once we are incorporated we can proceed with the 501c3 application. Dave stated he would move forward with the incorporation application. Don Landers made a motion to authorize the treasurer and the chair to proceed with the application process for 501c3 status, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
- b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reported that RBV sampling has been started. Recent rain has made scheduling difficult, as water levels at many of the sampling sites have been too high to make sampling possible. Don stated that he would like to identify a new water quality sampling site on Cranberry Meadow Brook above the horse farms to compare to the lower sites for nitrogen content. John Jasper noted that Morgan McGinley of Trout Unlimited had commented that stream quality near Rocco Drive is not as high as it once was.
- c. Education/Outreach Group: Judy reported in the Coordinator's Report that the Teacher Loan Kit had gone out to Waterford High School. John Jasper stated that his daughter would like to do an article for her school newspaper.
- d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: This subcommittee has not yet met.

8. New Business:

- a. Audit Committee Discussion: Don Landers made a motion to form an Audit Committee, comprised of three members, to review the books once a year. Marvin Schutt seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passes. Don Danila suggested that Judy should send an email to all members, soliciting volunteers, particularly those not already on a subcommittee.
- b. Draft 2012 Integrated Water Quality Report (CT DEEP) Discussion: Eric Thomas updated members on the draft 2012 IWQR. Members reviewed the status of the Niantic River and Niantic watershed waterbodies. Don Landers noted that there is a gap in the estuary data, likely due in part to staff shortages at the CT Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Aquaculture. Dave Turner noted that inadequate sampling due to staff shortages could skew the assessment results. Eric suggested that NRWC



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

should submit these observations to DEEP prior to the Oct. 29th comment period deadline. A suggestion was also made that NRWC could consider sponsoring a shellfish forum in the future.

- c. Annual Meeting Discussion: Per the provisions of the NRWC By-Laws, we are coming up on our annual meeting. Judy will check the status of reappointments. Don Landers made a motion to hold the Annual meeting prior to next month's regular meeting, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
- d. Watershed Brochure: The Monitoring Committee, at its September meeting, discussed a watershed brochure. Judy prepared a draft based on discussion and presented it to Board members. Chris Tomichek noted that all the elements discussed at the Monitoring Group meeting were captured. Judy will correct spacing issues and update the photo of the water quality monitoring program, and send the final draft to directors for review.
- e. New Connecticut State Regulations: Eric Thomas briefly updated directors regarding regulations regarding the new coastal jurisdiction line, and new phosphorus regulations. The coastal jurisdiction line has been shifted from the mean low tide to the mean high tide line. The new phosphorus regulation is part of a statewide phosphorus reduction strategy tied to NPDES permitting and involves phosphorus content in fertilizers and the application of fertilizers on established lawns.
- f. Pratt & Whitney Grant Program: Judy is in the process of connecting with Jeff Thompson of Pratt & Whitney to learn more about this program, and will report back when contact is made. Don Landers commented that the Dominion Foundation grant round is coming up and we should apply for additional funding through that source.
- g. Landmark Development Corp. Application: Marvin Schutt had previously updated the Board regarding this application. Members discussed whether we should prepare a letter to be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the Public Hearing. This item will be added to next month's agenda for additional discussion.
- h. Niantic River Tour/Potluck: Brief discussion was held regarding a boat ride of the Niantic River followed by a potluck supper.

9. Next meeting: November 1, 2012, 6 pm, at 914 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford, CT.

10. Adjourn: Ruth Savalle made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator