



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

July 9, 2015, 6 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 31, 2015 AT 8:40 AM/PM
Caitlin Sullivan
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Tom Bowen, Town of Montville; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Fran Violante, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Dan Mullins, Waterford resident; Aaron Pauley, Niantic resident.

Excused: Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: Don Danila made a motion to seat Ralph Bates and Fran Violante, seconded by Tom Bowen. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Ruth Savalle made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. Ruth Savalle made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
 - a. Establishment of a NRWC Bank Account: Don Danila reported that he has evaluated Charter Oak Credit Union and Liberty Bank, both local banks that are community-based and friendly to non-profit organizations. Both banks have branches in all four watershed towns, making access relatively simple. Don Landers made a motion to open an account with Charter Oak Credit Union, seconded by Fran Violante. All in favor, motion passes.
 - b. WQM Expenditure Reimbursement Approval: Don Danila submitted receipts for two expenditures associated with the water quality monitoring program (nitrate reagents and batteries) for reimbursement. Dave Turner made a motion to reimburse Don for expenses totaling \$121.22, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, motion passes. Dave Turner submitted a receipt in the amount of \$139.25 for two award plaques.

Don Danila made a motion to approve reimbursement to Dave in that amount, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes.

- c. Expense Reimbursement Approval Limit Discussion: Directors discussed the establishment of an expense limit under which pre-approval by the full Board of Directors is not necessary. Don Danila made a motion to authorize the officers to authorize any expense up to \$125. Don Landers suggested increasing that limit to \$150. Don Danila amended his motion to \$150, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy has been preparing outreach materials for Celebrate East Lyme Day. Judy, Don Danila, and John Jasper discussed redeploying the temperature loggers in Latimer and Cranberry Meadow Brooks, and will schedule a deployment day. Judy met with Victor Benni, East Lyme Town Engineer, and Lisa Vaudreille, an East Lyme elementary school teacher, to discuss the bio-retention garden at East Lyme High School. A late July installation is anticipated. The tree filter project in Niantic is complete. Development of informational signage is underway. Judy has contacted the new Waterford planner regarding the status of the Mago Point redevelopment project.
 6. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: There was brief discussion regarding support letters to the watershed towns. With town budgets set for the year, it was decided to table this until next year.
 - b. Watershed Signs: Judy has not had an opportunity to follow up on this at this time.
 - c. Celebrate East Lyme Day (July 18th): Preparations by Judy, Ruth, and Fran are ongoing. Don Landers confirmed that MEL will provide critters/tanks again this year.
 7. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the June water sampling results, and thanked Aaron Pauley for joining him again this month. June sampling revealed the highest nitrate levels we have seen since we began sampling. Water samples from this and last month's samples have been sent to UConn for nitrogen isotopic analysis. Don also commented that per the Diadromous Fish Report prepared weekly by DEEP, this year was one of the worse on record for migratory fish. Tom Bowen suggested that we contact Rand Whitney regarding possible funding for the Latimer Brook stream gauge. Judy will draft a letter and send it to directors for review.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 - c. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 8. New Business:
 - a. ECCD Coordinator Services Reimbursement:

- i. 2015 Dominion Grant Budget Breakdown: Judy presented a breakdown of various tasks for the 2015 Dominion grant, including water quality monitoring supplies, rain garden design and installation costs, and ECCD coordinator services, and requested approval for the budget. Fran Violante made a motion to approve the proposed budget, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
 - ii. ECCD Coordinator Reimbursement: Judy requested reimbursement of \$1500 for coordinator services for April-June 2015. Dave Turner made a motion to reimburse ECCD in the amount of \$1500 for the first quarter, seconded by Tom Bowen. All in favor, motion passes.
 - b. Rain Garden Project: Cranberry Meadow Road, East Lyme: Don Danila proposed the installation of a rain garden to the property owner by Cranberry Meadow Brook. The property owner was in favor of the project. Don Landers suggested we take a water sample from the pipe in question and test it for nitrates before we proceed. Don Danila reported that he will be joining the East Lyme Conservation Commission and will try to raise awareness regarding water quality conditions in Cranberry Meadow Brook with the commission.
 - c. YSI pH probe: Don Danila has not been able to resolve the issue with the pH probe and has concluded the probe needs to be replaced. He requested approval to purchase a new probe. Tom Bowen made a motion to approve up to \$200 to purchase a new pH probe, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the motion passes.
9. Public Comments: Aaron commented on the potential for a stormwater improvement project on Grand Street in East Lyme. Don Landers suggested that if the Mago Point tree filter project does not go through perhaps the project could be shifted to Grand Street. Fran Violante offered to bring up the tree filter project at the next Mago Point Redevelopment ad hoc meeting to build some momentum. Dave Turner suggested we should set up a photo op to present the plaques to Marvin and Paul Formica, and that we should invite Judy Benson of The Day. Judy will try to set something up.
10. Next meeting: August 6, 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 7:21 PM, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

