



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

June 4, 2015, 6 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT

JULY 7, 2015 AT 9:20 AM/PM
[Signature]
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Tom Bowen, Oakdale resident; Aaron Pauley, Niantic resident.

Excused: John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission.

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 for John Jasper, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Dave Turner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Don Danila reviewed the financial report. Don Danila requested reimbursement for chemicals purchased for the colorimeter. Dave Turner made a motion to reimburse Don Danila, seconded by Rick Kanter. All in favor, motion passes. Dave Turner commented that we had previously established an expenditure limit, and that expenses under that limit do not need a motion for approval. Judy will review meeting minutes to identify what the limit was, and this will be revisited at next month's meeting. Don Landers presented the Dominion Foundation notice of award to Judy. Judy read the award letter into the record, and thanked Don and Dominion Foundation for their continued support. Don Danila commented that he has begun to review area banks in order to open a NRWC account and transition funds from ECCD to NRWC.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy participated in the East Lyme Stormwater Classroom event at the Hole in the Wall Outdoor Classroom on May 12th. She has registered for Celebrate East Lyme Day, which will be held on July 18th. She gave a presentation on the East Lyme Tree Filter project in May for the Adventures in Lifelong Learning program at

Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. She also gave a short presentation of the same project at the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting on June 1st. Judy downloaded data from the Latimer Brook/Cranberry Meadow Brook temperatures loggers and sent it to Don D. and John J. for analysis. Judy will be meeting with East Lyme Town Engineer Victor Benni to discuss the rain garden at the East Lyme High School. Installation of tree filters in the East Lyme part of the Two Zone Tree Filter project is complete.

6. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: There was brief discussion regarding preparing letters to the watershed towns to request financial support for watershed programs. Eric Thomas asked if Towns had been notified that NRWC has obtained 501c3 status. Rick Kanter suggested we prepare a general press release.
- b. Watershed Signs: Judy will follow up with an alternate contact at CT DOT to discuss what is necessary to move this project forward.
- c. Latimer Brook Stream Gauge Funding: There is no funding for this item; the gauge will be discontinued.
- d. Celebrate East Lyme Day (July 18th): Judy, Ruth and Fran will head up the East Lyme Day Committee. Don Landers confirmed that MEL will provide critters and tanks again this year. Dave Turner stated that we can now put up a "Donations Welcome" sign.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. 501c3: Dave Turner confirmed that we have received approval of our 501c3 application. The confirmation letter was sent to the East Lyme Town Hall in December 2014, but was misplaced. Dave noted that he has not heard back from the State regarding efforts to correct our name on the incorporation documents ("River" was dropped from our name). Dave also stated that he submitted an annual report as required under the 501c3. Finally, directors agreed we should send a letter of thanks to Welles for his assistance with the 501c3 process.
- b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the May water sampling results. Craig Tobias of UConn will analyze the samples for nitrogen isotopes in order to potentially identify the N source. Millstone will be collecting a sample at our station #1. This will allow us to compare results to determine how accurate our methodology (Lamotte colorimeter) is. The pH probe on the YSI is still not working properly. Don will troubleshoot or investigate ordering a new probe. Don has converted all nitrate data results to nitrate-nitrogen so that our results will be comparable to Nitrogen Work Group data. Finally, Don noted that the tree filter trees along Colony Road looked good this year.
- c. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
- d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report. Eric Thomas commented that the 2015 CWA §319 grant announcement

should be publicized in the next few week. There was brief discussion about identifying an implementation project on Grand Avenue in East Lyme, which discharges its stormwater directly to the Niantic River. Don Danila queried the Board on its opinion regarding the installation of rain gardens on private property using NRWC grant funds. Judy commented that she and Victor Benni have discussed some sort of town-wide rain garden initiative to encourage East Lyme residents to install rain gardens, possibly in conjunction with the municipal MS-4 permit.

8. New Business:

- a. Plaques: Dave Turner has solicited estimates from several award companies for plaques for Marvin Schutt and Paul Formica. Don Landers made a motion to authorize up to \$75 each for plaques for Paul and Marvin, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, motion passes.

9. Public Comments: Rick Kanter commented on the proposed 250 foot "no-go" zone in the Niantic River in front of Camp Niantic. Don Danila read the letter NRWC sent to the East Lyme Zoning Commission regarding the Oswegatchie Hill permit application. Don also commented on minutes from the CT Council on Environmental Quality in which the impacts to the Bialowans property from the Antares solar installation were discussed. Eric Thomas commented that he noticed discussion regarding the former Woodsman property in the East Lyme Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting minutes. The BOS has approved funds towards the purchase of the property as open space provided a DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant application is approved.

10. Next meeting: July 2, 2015, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT. Brief discussion was held regarding rescheduling the meeting to July 9th due to the holiday. Don Landers made a motion to reschedule the Board of Directors meeting to July 9th, 2015, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.

11. Adjourn: Dave Turner made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM, seconded by Ralph Bates. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

