



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

January 8, 2015, 6:00 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jan 9 2015 AT 2:25 AM/PM
Kevin Harris, Jr.
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; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Ralph Bates, Niantic resident; Carol and Peter Kruse, Niantic residents; Dan Mullins, Waterford resident.

Excused: Peter Harris, 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: A motion was made by Don Landers to seat Don Danila for Salem, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of December 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Dave Turner reviewed the financial report. A motion was made by Don Danila to approve the report as presented, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy was contacted by a teacher at the Dual Languages and Arts Middle School in Waterford. She will report back after she speaks with this teacher. Judy has been speaking with East Lyme Town Engineer Victor Benni about a possible stormwater management collaboration in the Flanders area. Judy, Don Danila and Ralph Bates completed the streamwalk of Latimer Brook. Topics among observations on stream conditions were lack of riparian buffer (lawns right to the stream's edge) and low cobble dams in the stream channel to create wading pools, which could create fish passage barriers, especially in the summer months. Judy is in the process of preparing the Dominion Foundation to secure funding for 2015. ECCD's Waterford-East Lyme tree filter project is slated to begin in 2015. The downtown Niantic redevelopment project, which will include the installation of four tree filters along Pennsylvania Avenue, is

scheduled to begin spring 2015. ECCD will be meeting with BETA Group, which has been retained by the Town of Waterford to design the Mago Point project, in mid-January and will have a better idea when the project will begin after that.

6. Old Business:

- a. Town Matters: Dave Turner suggested that this would be a good time to update the town appeal letter as towns are beginning their budget preparations for the new fiscal year. Discussion was held regarding an award for Paul Formica for his support of the watershed committee during his tenure as first selectman. John Jasper made a motion to prepare an award for Paul, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, motions passes. Discussion was also held regarding an award for Marvin Schutt who will be stepping down as a director and some sort of acknowledgement for Welles Gilmartin for his assistance with the 501c3 application.
- b. Watershed Signs: John Jasper reported that there has been no recent action on this item. The sign proposed by DOT does not really fulfill the initial intent of the sign as a vehicle for outreach and awareness. Judy will contact DOT to see what we need to do to get the project moving forward.
- c. Plan of Work Update: Directors reviewed the Plan of Work and suggested some updates to ranking and activities. Judy will update the Plan based on discussion and email it to directors prior to the next Board meeting.
- d. Board Vacancies: Judy will coordinate with the Town of East Lyme to change Don Danila from alternate to full member and appoint Ralph Bates as the new alternate. Judy will make revisions to the "Members Wanted" letter and submit it to local papers to solicit new board and subcommittee members.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. 501c3: The application has been submitted. We are now waiting for approval from the IRS.
- b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the past month's monitoring results. He reported that he believes an issue with the DO sensor has been resolved. He is still having a problem with the screen backlighting. Judy will contact YSI to see how it can be resolved. Brief discussion was held regarding a recent EPA equipment loan RFP, and if it would be applicable and/or beneficial to our monitoring program.
- c. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report. John Jasper reported that he has spoken with Steve Loomis at Connecticut College about a student who would like to intern with the Watershed Committee. This student had previously contacted Judy and is interested in conducting a water quality project as part of her program requirements.
- d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.

8. New Business:
 - a. Election of Officers: Brief discussion was held regarding officer elections. The election will be tabled until the next meeting to allow for nominations.
 - b. Outreach Opportunity: Doug Lawson suggested that representatives from NRWC attend a WELSCO meeting to talk about Watershed Committee activities. Rick Kanter offered to see if the committee would like NRWC to attend their February meeting.
 - c. USGS Pine Grove Groundwater Study: Don Danila informed the Board that John Mullaney of USGS has offered to do a presentation on the final results of the Pine Grove study. Don will follow up with John.
9. Public Comments: Board members welcomed Carol and Peter Kruse to the meeting. The Kruses are Niantic residents who were curious about the Watershed Committee and came to the meeting to learn more.
10. Next meeting: February 5, 2015, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.
11. Adjourn: Doug Lawson made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 PM, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

