



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

February 5, 2015, 6:00 PM

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Mar 5 2015 AT 11:50 AM/PM
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator; Ralph Bates, Niantic resident; Dan Mullins, Waterford resident.

Excused: Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem.

Absent: Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by Don Landers to seat Peter Harris for John Jasper, seconded by Rick Kanter. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of January 8, 2015 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 Landers to approve the report as presented, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy emailed the teacher at the Dual Languages and Arts Middle School in Waterford who had previously contacted her. She will report back after she connects with this teacher. Judy contacted Sunny Ezete of CT DOT regarding the watershed signs. She will report when she hears back from him. Judy has had the opportunity to continue with updates on the recently reformatted NRWC website. Judy contacted YSI regarding the issues Don D. has been having with the screen. The technician made some suggestions that Don will try when he returns from his vacation. Judy shared the Latimer Brook streamwalk data we recently collected with East Lyme town staff. The town engineer was particularly interested in how the data could be used to supplement stormwater system mapping required under the MS-4 permit.

Judy is in the process of preparing the Dominion Foundation to secure funding for 2015, including funding for rain gardens or other stormwater implementation. To that end, Judy met with East Lyme Town Engineer Victor Benni about a possible stormwater management project at the high school. The next step will be to contact the school superintendent to pitch the project. 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 met with BETA Group, which has been retained by the Town of Waterford to design the Mago Point project. That project is slated to begin spring 2016. Eric Thomas commented that stream crossing signs are installed through a different program or division at CTDOT, and that perhaps we should investigate if we are making our request through the correct channels. Don Landers commented that Dominion Foundation is targeting large, "boots-on-the-ground" projects this year and perhaps we should expand the scope of our 2015 proposal. Eric Thomas informed the group that CT DEEP is funding the Town of East Lyme through the 319 program to retrofit the Stormwater Classroom to treat water quality as well as quantity.

6. Old Business:

- a. Election of Officers: Rick Kanter nominated the following slate of officers for 2016:

Chair – Chris Tomichek
Vice-chair – Don Landers
Secretary – Ruth Savalle
Treasurer – vacant

The motion was seconded by Peter Harris. All in favor, motion passes.

- b. Town Matters: East Lyme Harbor Management has been asked by the selectmen and finance committee to discuss the line item for the Latimer Brook stream gage. Eric Thomas asked about the status of the Harbor Management Plan. Don Landers stated it is in development but has not been drafted yet. Rick Kanter has arranged for NRWC to be on the agenda for the February WLSCO meeting to talk about water quality and the WQM program. Peter Harris stated that the new rain gauge at the East Lyme Dispatch Center is running well. Details, including data availability, are still being worked out. This rain gauge was installed to replace a USGS rain gauge that is being discontinued.
- c. Watershed Signs: Previously discussed in Coordinator's Report.
- d. Plan of Work Update: Directors reviewed updates to the Plan subsequent to last month's meeting. Approval will be tabled to the March meeting to allow Directors time to review.
- e. Board Vacancies: The "Members Wanted" letter was printed in The Day, and will be printed in The Post Road Review in the next publication.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. 501c3: The application has been submitted. Dave will check to see if we have received any notification from the IRS.

- b. Monitoring Group: Don was not able to attend this evening's meeting, but he previously emailed members his water quality monitoring report for January.
 - c. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 - d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
8. New Business:
- a. Don Landers presented a letter from Dominion Foundation, which Chris Tomichuk read into the record, regarding an additional award of \$5000 to NRWC to be used for water quality improvements in the watershed.
 - b. LIS Summit: Eric Thomas announced that the CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound has announced the 24th Long Island Sound Citizens Summit, Friday, April 10th, 2015.
 - c. Local water /shellfish testing: Doug Lawson and Peter Harris discussed briefly the need for a local lab for water and shellfish testing, so closed shellfish beds can be evaluated and re-opened in a timely manner after rains. There is a great deal of support for a local lab from eastern CT shellfish commissions. UConn at Avery Point has been put forward in informal discussions as a possible location for such a facility. There was additional discussion regarding sources of bacteria, including septic systems and cesspools. Reference was made to a successful program launched by HarborWatch in Westport, CT that tracked down and identified illicit discharges through the stormdrain system in an effort to reduce bacterial contamination.
9. Public Comments: None.
10. Next meeting: March 5, 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 7:36 PM, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator

