



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

June 5, 2014

East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, CT.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 8, 2014 AT 11:30 AM/PM
Karen Galt
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: 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; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator, Dan Mullins, ECCD.

Excused: Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by Don Landers to seat Don Danila for John Jasper, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of May 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Dave Turner reviewed the May financial report. Don Landers made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: Judy was invited to participate in the Stormwater Classroom event for Town of East Lyme third-graders on May 29th. She talked about the role of plants and soil in removing pollutants from stormwater. Celebrate East Lyme Day in July 19th. Anyone who would like to staff the booth is welcome. Judy has been involved in the planning of a Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Conference which is scheduled for July 29th in East Hartford. Judy and several NRWC members attended the quarterly meeting of the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group at UConn/Avery Point on June 2nd. Judy met with East Lyme staff Victor Benni and Gary Goeschel to identify possible stormwater implementation sites at the East Lyme High School. They identified a potential site near the baseball field and are waiting to hear from the principal if the school is interesting in pursuing an implementation. The Mago Park Riparian buffer planting is scheduled for June 16th. Planning on the Waterford and East Lyme tree filter installations is proceeding.

6. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: East Lyme is moving forward with plans to contract with USGS to re-activate the stream gauge on Latimer Brook.
 - b. Watershed Signs: Judy Rondeau reported that plans to install watershed signs at key points along main roads throughout the watershed are moving along slowly. John Jasper is trying to identify the correct person at DOT to assist with approvals. At this point, we need information on the correct sign size so we can order the signs, and we need to know if the State will install them on the state roads.
 - c. Celebrate East Lyme Day: Previously discussed in the Coordinators' report.

7. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. 501c3: Dave Turner reported that the process is moving forward slowly. He encountered several issues with the incorporation application. The State reported our name incorrectly on the first forms, which needed to be corrected. Secondly, we missed some information on the application form, and thirdly, we submitted the Articles of Incorporation in the wrong format. These have been corrected and resubmitted by Dave. There was brief discussion about whether we should have someone review the corrected application before we submit it.
 - b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila reviewed the May water quality sampling results. Nitrate-nitrogen levels in Latimer Brook were highest in the Flanders area. Nitrate-nitrogen was higher in Cranberry Meadow Brook than in Latimer Brook. Don noted that Stony Brook and Oil Mill Brook in Waterford had fairly low conductivity, pH was higher, and dissolved oxygen was at or near saturation. Stony Brook had a slightly higher conductivity than Oil Mill Brook. Don noted the presence of iron bacteria and questioned whether there was a link. We received the results of the most recent temperature logger deployment from Meg Ruta at DEEP. The logger that was placed in Latimer Brooks downstream of the Cranberry Meadow Brook confluence did not record, so John was not able to use the data for his flux calculations. Don noted that he attended the show-cause hearing for the sedimentation form the Antares solar farm project, and will keep the Committee updated. Don and John Jasper have offered to do presentations on NRWC's water quality monitoring program at the Volunteer WQM Conference in July. Rick Kanter noted that the eelgrass in the Niantic River appears to be making a comeback this year.
 - c. Education/Outreach Group: Reviewed in Coordinator's Report.
 - d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: Eric commented that the 2015 §319 grant round is coming up. He also suggested that NRWC support an application of the Town of Waterford for the development of the green infrastructure tool box, should the Town choose to pursue through the 319 program.

8. New Business:
 - a. Mago Point Demonstration Riparian Buffer Planting Day: As previously reported, the planting day is set for June 16th. Anyone who would like to assist will be welcome.
 - b. Hobo Data Logger Purchase: Based on discussion with Meghan Ruta at DEEP about the availability of DEEP's supply of Hobo data loggers, Judy proposed that we use funds available from the 2013 Dominion grant to buy our own loggers. Dave Turner

made a motion that Judy determine the cost for a minimum of three loggers, the data transfer shuttle and the computer software, circulate this information by email to all directors, and an e-vote be taken to approve or disapprove the purchase. The motion was seconded Rick Kanter. All in favor, the motion passes.

- c. Pine Grove Japanese Knotweed Workdays: The CT Invasive Plant Work Group has scheduled a series of workdays to remove Japanese Knotweed growing in the Pine Grove area. Judy shared a flyer with the work schedule for anyone interested in participating.
9. Next meeting: July 3, 2014, 6 pm; East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT. Discussion was held regarding re-scheduling the July meeting due to its proximity to the Fourth of July Holiday. Don Danila made a motion to reschedule the meeting date from July 3rd to July 10th, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, motion passes. The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at 6 pm, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT.
 10. Adjourn: Dave Turner made a motion to adjourn at 7:32PM, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator