



# *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

## **Board Development Meeting**

**August 10, 2010**

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Lower Meeting Room, Waterford Town Hall**

**Attendees:** Marcia Benvenuti, Waterford; Fred Grimsey, Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills, Inc.; John Jasper, East Lyme; Dave Lersch, Waterford; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Tom Wagner, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 3:05 pm.

1. Welcome - Judy welcomed participants to the meeting.
2. Review of July 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes - Members reviewed the minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting. Marvin Schutt stated that item 4b – Discussion of the Draft By-Laws, did not accurately reflect the tenor of the discussion that took place, and wanted the minutes amended to reflect the philosophical difference that shaped the discussion. Joe Mingo made a motion to approve the minutes, with the amendment proposed by Marvin Schutt, seconded by Dave Lersch. All in favor, the minutes were approved as amended. Marcia Benvenuti abstained as she was not present at the July meeting. Tom Wagner stated he was attending as an observer.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report – Judy handed out a summary of her activities for the past month for review. Judy noted that as part of her activities as Coordinator she had received a request from MaryAnn Chinatti from the Town of Salem for a letter of support for an EPA §319 Clean Water Act grant for which the Town is applying. Judy distributed copies of the draft letter for members to review. Fred Grimsey made a motion, seconded by Marcia Benvenuti to approve the letter of support. Marvin Schutt stated that he thought the first line of the second paragraph, regarding high water quality in streams in the upper reaches of the watershed might lead grant application reviewers to feel that water testing was not necessary, and suggested Judy revise that statement. Fred and Marcia agreed to amend the motion to reflect Marvin's suggestion. All in favor, motion carries. Judy will amend the letter as suggested and submit to the Town of Salem for inclusion with the grant application. Eric Thomas suggested Judy distribute the Coordinator's Report via email for all NRWAC members, First Selectmen, etc. Judy will distribute the report with the meeting minutes.
4. Watershed Roundtable - Judy stated that she had not been able to schedule the watershed roundtable for this month as she had previously intended due to the unavailability of guests. She will try to schedule the roundtable for next month's meeting. Marvin stated that he felt it would be more effective for members of the Board Development Committee to "interview" other watersheds and bring the information back to the group than to bring other watershed representatives to us for discussion.

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## 5. Discussion –

- a. Logos – Joe Mingo made a motion to approve the logo identified as 4k, seconded by Fred Grimsey. Discussion followed regarding the symbology of the figures on the logo (osprey, scallop, handshake) and whether anyone had followed up on determining the icons on the Salem and Montville town logos for inclusion. Following discussion, motion was moved, all were in favor, motion carried.
- b. By-laws – Following last month’s discussion regarding the draft by-laws, Judy prepared an alternative abbreviated version, based in part on a very simple set of by-laws she had helped draft for another organization, and the bylaws under consideration by the Board Development Committee. She also distributed a copy of by-laws from the Chesapeake Executive Council, forwarded to her by Dave Lersch. Joe Mingo suggested the Committee look at the enabling legislation for conservation commissions for guidance. Marcia asked, regarding the draft by-laws currently under consideration, what the next steps would be when we select proposed by-laws. The by-laws would go to an attorney for review, they would be reviewed by the four watershed town CEOs, and then revised and adopted based on those reviews. Fred stated we already have tacit support of the selectmen of East Lyme and Waterford, via the letters of support submitted for the NFWF grant application. Judy stated that she had met with the first selectmen of Salem, East Lyme and Waterford, and they had reaffirmed their support of the Advisory Group and had agreed to appoint two representatives from each of their towns to officially participate in the group. Marvin Schutt discussed public Act 01-117, which enables towns to create intermunicipal partnerships, and suggested we look at that document for guidance. Discussion ensued whether it was necessary for the group to adopt by-laws. Eric Thomas was asked if other watershed groups had by-laws. Eric discussed the benefits of adopting by-laws. Marcia Benvenuti made a motion that committee members review the information distributed and be prepared to act on bylaws at next month’s meeting, seconded by Marvin Schutt. All in favor, motion carries. Eric distributed information on harbor preservation organizations on Long Island for committee member review. Judy will send the link for members who did not receive a paper copy.
- c. Board composition and organization type were not discussed due to time constraints.

6. New Business – No new business was discussed.

7. Next Meeting – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 3:00PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

### **Action Items:**

- Please review draft bylaws and other distributed material for discussion and action at next meeting.

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