



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

## **Minutes**

### **Niantic River Watershed Committee Meeting**

**October 11, 2011**

**4-6 pm**

**LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall**

**15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT.**

**Attendees:** Don Danila, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Waterford; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:09 pm.
2. Review of September 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Marvin Schutt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Chris Tomichek. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: The Coordinator distributed her report to Committee members for review. She thanked all committee members for their assistance in planning the State of the Watershed meeting, which was held in September, and for attending the meeting, which was well-received.
4. Partner Reports: There were no partner reports this month.
5. Discussion:
  - a. Establishment of Board of Directors: Judy proposed Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, as the best meeting dates based on responses she has received from Directors. It was the consensus of the group that Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> was the better date of the two. After brief discussion the group decided to schedule the meeting for 7 PM. Dave Turner has offered the conference room at his office on Rt. 85 in Waterford. Judy will send directions, along with the meeting date and time confirmation in the next few days. Discussion followed regarding filling the remaining director positions. Judy reported that based on discussion with the Chair of the Montville Town Council, the Montville appointment will not be made until next month at the earliest. A second Montville representative is still needed. A representative from the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission is also needed. Committee members will contact potential candidates about volunteering for the Board. The group also discussed meeting frequency. It was decided that, at least for the first few months, the Board should meet monthly to address important administrative issues, and to investigate funding opportunities for the Coordinator position. Judy suggested that Don Danila be appointed as an alternate Director for East Lyme. Judy will contact Paul Formica to discuss that appointment.

- b. Re-establishment of the Working Groups: Judy stated that with the Board of Directors ready to get underway, she would like to reconvene the working groups. Discussion followed regarding tasks the working groups can/will undertake. The group briefly discussed the RFP written last year to retain a consultant to compile and analyze existing water quality data from study sites throughout the watershed and river. Judy explained that funding opportunities were limited in the last grant funding period, and were complicated by the need to add a section to the RFP requiring a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to address the analysis of secondary data. Committee members agreed that revisiting the RFP should be one of the first priorities of the Board of Directors. Discussion briefly touched upon the work of the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group, the fact that the work group discussed gaps in the existing data, and proposed research that would try to close those gaps. Research by scientists at UConn/Avery Point and others is either underway or will commence in the near future. Judy also stated that the Education/Outreach subcommittee needs to be re-institute outreach activities. She suggested the Waterford Patch as a possible outreach vehicle, if an O/E committee member is willing to write outreach articles on regular basis.
6. Monitoring Data:
    - a. Monitoring Program Development: Judy reported that she attended a luncheon on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Unilever's facility in Clinton, CT., to accept the grant award of \$1500. At that time she learned that the Clinton plant is closing. She is not certain this grant opportunity will be available in the future as a result of the move.
  7. Outreach:
    - a. Teacher Loan Kits: Judy is working on this as time allows, and will make completion a priority of the Education/Outreach Committee.
  8. WBP Implementation
    - a. Clark Pond Riparian Buffer Restoration: Judy will be attending the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Commission meeting this evening for this project. Although it is too late now in the season to conduct the Japanese Knotweed eradication, having the permit in hand will allow for planning next spring.
  9. Other Business: None
  10. Next Meetings:
    - a. **Board of Directors:** October 20, 2011, 7 PM, Waterford Business Incubator Office, 914 Rt. 85 (2<sup>nd</sup> Flr), Waterford, CT. (across from Best-Buy)
    - b. **Working Groups:** November 15, 2011, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.
      - i. **Monitoring Group: 4 PM**
      - ii. **Education/Outreach: 5 PM**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.