



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

## **Minutes**

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

**July 12, 2011**

**4-6 pm**

**LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall**

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

**Attendees:** Don Danila, East Lyme; Mary-Beth Hart, CT DEEP-OLISP; John Jasper, MIT LLC; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management ; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; Ruth Savalle, Salem; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Tom Wagner, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:02 pm.
2. Review of June 14, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Eric Thomas. All were in favor of the motion, minutes were approved. Marvin Schutt abstained as he was not present at the meeting.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: The Coordinator distributed her report to Committee members and briefly reviewed the items. She has been informed that Salem has officially appointed representatives to the watershed Board. Ruth Savalle, one of the Salem appointees, was present at the meeting. Committee members welcomed Ruth to the group. Judy met with a Montville Middle School teacher who is very interested in using the WQM loan kit. Judy will contact the teacher at the start of the school year regarding the kit's use. The rain barrel sale pick-up was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Waterford. Judy was notified that Unilever US Foundation has reduced its level of grant funding this year. We will be receiving \$1500 rather than \$4000. Judy submitted an application to the US EPA Region 1 Volunteer Equipment Loan program for water quality monitoring equipment (a Smart3 Colorimeter for nutrient testing and a 4 parameter YSI meter for stream testing). As of the meeting she hadn't heard on the status of the application. Judy continues to work with Friends of Oswegatchie Hills and a local boy scout to develop the riparian buffer and conduct invasive plant management at Clark Pond in East Lyme.
4. Partner Reports: Eric Thomas reported that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, CT DEP is now CT DEEP – Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He reported that the final report for 2011 for anadromous fish passage has been issued by the DEEP Fisheries Division. He will send the link to any interested Committee members. Eric noted that an LID Presentation in Salem presented by MaryAnne Nusom Haverstock of the DEEP on June 28<sup>th</sup> was well-attended and well received. He briefly discussed DEEP Office of Long Island Sound program permits, including dock permits. Don Landers noted that East Lyme Harbor Mgmt/Shellfish

Commission receives notification of permits. Tom Wagner stated that the Town (of Waterford) gets notice of permits, but not of Certificates of Permission (COPs). Mary-Beth Hart briefly explained the COP process for Committee members (it is an expedited process for limited or no impact permit applications).

5. Discussion:

- a. Plan of Work: Committee members are asked to review the individual activities within each goal and to rank them as high, medium or low for the next meeting (August 9<sup>th</sup>).
- b. Establishment of Board of Directors: Judy reported in the Coordinator's Report that Salem Directors have been appointed. Judy has one more director for Montville in mind, and will be speaking with the individual in the near future.

6. Monitoring Data:

- a. Monitoring Program Development: Eric Thomas reported that discussions between Ledge Light Health District, DEEP, and the Towns of Waterford and East Lyme as a consequence of Fred Grimsey's bacteria monitoring have been ongoing. The group is reaching a consensus regarding how to best utilize the data Fred has been collecting to inform residents regarding the potential for high bacteria levels in the river following rainfalls. Discussion followed regarding potential sources of bacteria to the river other than septic systems, including farms, and sediment loads from upstream gravel operations. John Jasper spoke briefly about the culvert project Trout Unlimited has been conducting in the area. TU is inspecting culverts to identify fish passage and other potential problems.
- b. Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group: John Jasper informed the group about email correspondence between himself and members of the Work Group regarding eutrophication in the Niantic River. He offered to forward the emails to anyone interested in reviewing them.

7. Outreach:

- a. Celebrate East Lyme Day – July 16<sup>th</sup>: Judy summarized plans for the event (Ecology of the Niantic River, with display of aquatic species, promotion of Landscaping for Water Quality program, and statement of nutrient and bacteria problems in the river). She invited anyone interested to come and visit or man the booth for a few hours.
- b. Watershed Stakeholder meeting: At last month's meeting we picked a tentative date (Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>). Judy requested suggestions for possible locations so she can reserve a site. Suggestions included Camp Niantic, the Salem Firehouse, the Dinosaur Place, Oswegatchie School, any of the watershed town high schools.
- c. Teacher Loan Kits: Judy updated Committee members on the status of this item in the Coordinator's Report.

8. WBP Implementation

- a. Clark Pond Riparian Buffer Restoration: Judy is continuing to work with Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve to manage invasive plants and develop the riparian buffer.

9. Other Business: Don Danila reported that a new exotic species, an oriental shrimp, has been identified in the Niantic River. Marvin asked how many people to expect at the publicity event, so he would know what size boat to reserve. Consensus was 15-20 people. Ruth Savalle offered to “advertise” the teacher WQ loan kits.

10. Next Meeting: **August 9, 2011, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.