



Niantic River Watershed Committee

Minutes

Niantic River Watershed Committee Meeting

August 16, 2011

4-6 pm

Main Meeting Room, East Lyme Town Hall

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT

Attendees: Don Danila, East Lyme; Paul Formica, First Selectman, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management ; Doug Lawson, Waterford; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; Ruth Savalle, Salem; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Dave Turner, Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:09 pm. Committee members welcomed Doug Lawson, who has been appointed to one of the Waterford Director positions.
2. Review of July 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Chris Tomichek. All were in favor of the motion, minutes were approved.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: The Coordinator distributed her report to Committee members and briefly reviewed the items. Judy continues to pursue completion of the appointments to the Board of Directors and is working with Montville to complete appointment of the Montville representatives. She would like to arrange an informal meeting at the end of August/beginning of September to introduce the directors to each other and provide information about the watershed committee. Development of the teacher loan kits is ongoing, and materials will be ordered in the next week. Judy received confirmation from CT National Guard that we can use Camp Niantic as the location for the watershed stakeholder meeting in September. Judy has not heard from US EPA regarding the equipment loan program, but will update Committee members when she does. Judy would like to conduct stream walks on Latimer Brook this fall, if time permits, to identify possible areas for implementations. The invasive species eradication workday scheduled for Saturday, August 20th has been postponed. The East Lyme Inland Wetland Commission has requested that a wetlands permit be submitted for the proposed invasive plant removal. Pending the outcome of the September IWC meeting, the workday will either be rescheduled this fall, or postponed until next year.
4. Partner Reports: Extensive discussion took place regarding the ongoing bacteria monitoring being conducted by Fred Grimsey. East Lyme First Selectman Paul Formica was present to participate in the discussion. The bulk of discussion focused on how best to provide notification to the public when bacteria levels are high. Paul Formica will discuss the matter

with Dan Steward, First Selectman of Waterford, George Caulkins of Ledge Light Health District and others, to determine both jurisdiction and the best notification method.

5. Discussion:
 - a. Plan of Work: Last month, Committee members were asked to review the individual activities within each goal and to rank them as high, medium or low. Judy has received several rankings. She will compile the rankings and distribute them to Committee members.
 - b. Establishment of Board of Directors: Judy reported in the Coordinator's report that she is working on the Montville appointment. She also reported that a director is needed from the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission, and asked if anyone could make a recommendation. She elaborated on the informal director's meeting. Dave Turner offered the conference room at his office as a possible meeting location. Judy informed Committee members that she has been notified by NFWF/LISFF that NRWC's application for funding for the coordinator position has not been chosen by the selection committee. Discussion followed regarding other potential funding sources. As the current \$319 grant supporting the coordinator position ends in December 2011, pursuing additional funding will be a primary goal of the newly forming Board of Directors.
6. Monitoring Data:
 - a. Monitoring Program Development: Judy reiterated that, as time allows, she would like to conduct a streamwalk of Latimer Brook to identify possible areas for future implementations (a stream walk is a visual assessment of the physical condition of a stream). Members stated that Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills has conducted stream walks in the watershed. Judy will contact STR-STH to see what areas have not yet been surveyed.
7. Outreach:
 - a. Watershed Stakeholder meeting: Brief discussion was held regarding the agenda for the event. Members roughed out an agenda based on prior discussion between Judy and Eric. Members also discussed the target audience for the event. The ad hoc committee will correspond via email to finalize the agenda and guest list.
 - b. 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 updated members on this item in the Coordinator's report.
9. Other Business:
 - a. Judy reported that she has received notification of a wetland restoration grant opportunity from the Connecticut Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CT CWRP). The application deadline is September 30th. She asked members to inform her

of any restoration opportunities they think might be appropriate for this grant. More information is available at www.ctcwrp.org.

- b. Judy commented on the possible acquisition of the Darrow property in East Lyme by the Trust for Public Land and the Town of East Lyme. The Darrow property is adjacent to the town's aquifer protection area. This purchase would help protect 301 acres of land and help safeguard public drinking water.
- c. Judy also commented on a news radio program she heard in the last week regarding restoration of eelgrass beds in Clinton, CT. According to the report, eelgrass from the Niantic River was used to restore the Clinton eelgrass beds.

10. Next Meeting: **September 13, 2011, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.