



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

May 3, 2018

Good evening,

I'm sorry I am unable to attend the meeting tonight. Following is a summary of my activities since the April 5, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Peter Harris asked me to relay, in case he isn't able to attend the meeting tonight, that WELSCO will be having a public hearing on May 17th at 6:30 pm at the Waterford Town Hall regarding aquaculture. NRWC is invited to attend and comment.

Also, Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden has informed me that several Salem residents have expressed interest in joining the Board and will attend the June meeting to learn more about us.

Outreach/Education:

- I have participated in weekly planning calls for the Behavior Change campaign pilot project. We conducted the pilot to the pilot on April 7th in the Mago Point neighborhood in Waterford to test our message and outreach materials. Former Board member Fran Violante was our neighborhood contact. We are planning to launch the full pilot project (which will target 200-400 households) in mid-May. We will be going door-to-door on May 12th and 19th to distribute brochures and ask if folks would like to display the outreach sticker on their trash bins. The distribution of door hangers (passive outreach) is planned for later in May or June. We created a new page for the website for the project under the Homeowner programs tab called Healthy Lawns, Health River. You can reach it using a new domain we purchased and linked to the Niantic River Watershed website— www.healthylawnshealthyriver.net – which will be printed on all the outreach material.

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Victor Benni, Dan Mullins and I met with Abby Stokes and Petie Reed to discuss a rain garden in Pine Grove to manage runoff from several roads. NRWC has approved funding through the Rain Garden Initiative to assist with the rain garden. The Pine Grove Association will also work with ECCD to utilize funds from the LISFF 100 Rain Gardens, 100 Rain Barrels project.

Monitoring:

- Don and I plan to retrieve the temperature loggers tomorrow.

Grants:

- The DEEP Clean Water Act §319 contract for the NRWPP Update arrived last week at the East Lyme Town Hall. Chris and Eric met last Friday (4/27) to sign it, and Eric returned it to DEEP for final signatures.

- I had discussion with Sam Alexander of SCCOG about a potential CWA §319 grant application to complement our upcoming watershed plan update. Sam ultimately decided not to pursue the proposal at this time, but will be involved in the watershed plan update process and may pursue the proposal in a future §319 grant round.

ECCD Projects:

- Grand Street Water Quality Improvement project: Town Engineer Victor Benni and I identified sites for five more tree wells on Jo-Ann Street, Smith Ave and Morton Street. The units were installed last Friday and Saturday (4/27 & 4/28). The MS4 workshop, conducted in partnership with CT NEMO and the Town of East Lyme, was held on 4/27. We had about 40 attendees and feedback has been uniformly positive. The workshop targeted the incorporation of LID practices into the MS4 permit requirements and included a tour of the LID practices we have installed in Niantic (a big hit!).
- East Lyme High School infiltration project: This project is on-target for early summer installation. I would still like to install the Dominion-funded rain garden in May or June. The Millstone Environmental Lab has indicated interest in assisting with the installation (thanks!). Now that the Grand Street project is wrapping up, Victor and I can focus on this project.
- Eastern Connecticut Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels: This project to install 100 rain gardens and rain barrels is underway. ECCD would like to install 3 rain gardens in each District town. We would like to hold one of the five rain barrel workshops in Waterford, in partnership with Waterford Boy Scouts. I've identified several good sites in East Lyme for rain gardens. I am presently looking for sites in Waterford and Montville for rain gardens (Salem, unfortunately, is not in our District). If you know anyone who would like a rain garden or anywhere a rain garden can address a run-off issue, please let me know!

Staff hours: In April, I worked approximately 23 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 4.5 hours were for administrative activities, outreach and monitoring activities, and 18.5 hours were applied to projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator