



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Mike
Marelli

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

6:45 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marelli called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Marelli welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the members of the Public who were participating via video conference that remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town's Website.

II ROLL CALL

Ms. Buhle was appointed as a voting member.

In addition, the following were present:
Councilor McGrattan.

Present Commissioner Roberta Levandoski
Chairman Michael E. Marelli
Commissioner Amy Stephenson
Commissioner David Holdridge
Alternate Member Jessica Buhle
Alternate Member Betsy Graham

Excused Commissioner James Harwood
Commissioner Kathleen Edgcomb
Alternate Member Barbara Kil

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular meeting minutes with corrections:
Typos: state awarded three "million" dollars, not "mission" dollars". Last sentence dams, not damns. Lastly upgrading the "fishway" should be "Bridges upgrades"

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED

MOVER: David Holdridge

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle

AYE: 6 Levandoski, Marelli, Stephenson, Holdridge, Buhle, and Graham

EXCUSED: 3 Harwood, Edgcomb, and Kil

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. REPORTS

1. Financial Report
No change since last meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Power equipment is all present now. Chairman Marelli has signed the invoice for the equipment to be paid.
2. Mr. Holdridge discussed the idea of creating a regular meeting schedule of various town committees to bring them together collectively for the welfare of Ledyard's lands. Considered committees would be the Conservation Committee, Inlands and Wetlands, Planning and Zoning, Agricultural Commission and Land Use. These committees would meet regularly to keep each other up-to-date. The initial meeting or frequency is not yet set. It was suggested that two members from each committee will regularly attend and the meetings will be open to the public.
3. A letter was sent to Mayor Allyn III in support of the Grahams' long-term property lease on Lantern Hill Rd for use by town residents for a roadside park for a picnic and cartop boating access.
4. Discussion of the Gales Ferry informational meeting about the sale and future use of DOW Chemical property along Rt 12, to Cashman Dredging. The committee was updated by Ms. Buhle, who attended the first meeting of Ledyard residents. There is a scheduled meeting at the Gales Ferry Middle School on July 18 at 6:30 PM, which is open to all, either in attendance or via Zoom.
5. Jessica gave a brief overview of the concerns that have been expressed: a significant amount of daily truck traffic 24/7 = increase in noise, traffic, and light pollution; concerns about Bald Eagle population impact; did DOW operate 24 hours a day; dredging process is not just for the Thames River, but the company will be managing dredging that arrives from many locations, involving sorting and ensuring it is sent to the appropriate disposal area.
6. Chairman Marelli, familiar with dredging operations, explained that products of dredging from many places are now recycled rather than dumped into the ocean. They are sorted into nontoxic, handled by trucks, and toxic products are put on rail cars to a receiving state for management.
7. Betsy Graham reported that she has had no contact yet with either owner of the Finley property on Cider Hill.

1. Property Walks

Jessica walked the Avalonia Barrett Preserve and saw a few invasive plants. She found the parking

location difficult, but apparently, there is another parking location that is more accessible.

2. White-Hall Environmental Assessment

No updates yet from Ms. Jones. Until there is an update from Maggie Jones, it will be dropped from the agenda.

3. Open Space Acquisition Plan

Open Spaces Acquisition Plan has another update by Chairman Marelli, which will be sent to all - this is a Water Resource Protection Plan to include the Thames River and Poquetanuck Cove. The Glacial Park management plan is finished.

Mr. Holdridge presented a map of properties that would be of interest for a connecting trail between Glacial Park and Kettlehole Park. He reported that he sent a letter but so far has had no reply

5. Glacier Park Maintenance Plan

6. Any Old Business proper to come before the Committee

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any New Business proper to come before the Committee

Carmen HGarcia-Irizarry will be resigning for the Committee.

Discussion about the OSWA grant. David presented a map of the location of a land parcel and recommended initiating a collaboration between the Ledyard Conservation Committee, Tri-Town Trail leadership, Groton Utilities, Avalonia. The grant proposals need to be in by the end of September for this year, so discussions focused on looking forward for next year. Consideration is given to areas involving greenways and watersheds of public water supply. David Holdridge presented a map and recommended parcel 148 Stoddard's Wharf Rd as it is of interest to protect by Groton Utilities and could be part of the Tri-Town Trail projected path to Bluff Point. David discussed the process of applying for land acquisition grants, which starts with a land owner willing to sell, appraisals, and then grant application. The grant is not for 100% of the purchase cost, and would require financial participation by the applicant. David suggested sending an exploratory letter to the Groton Utilities Commissioner, including Ledyard Mayor Allyn III, Ledyard town Council, Avalonia and Tri-Town Trail to see if there is supportive interest in applying for the grant. If these entities are interested then we would approach the present owners, the Rowley's, to see if they are willing to consider selling their property for Open Space. Betsy Graham will send a draft letter to David for review.

Jessica mentioned the Ledyard Beautification Committee was still running the contest for photos for the 14 banners. Contest deadline is August 1st. Mentioned using a Long Pond photo would be nice for a lake theme.

Jessica also inquired if the Conservation Committee could have a table at the Ledyard Farmers Market this season. The market is continuing until Sept 14, open 4-7. Jessica will check if there are still dates open to sponsor a table with ideas such as Hike Ledyard, SCARRA and invasive plants as themes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Marelli moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Buble

VOTE: 6-0 Approved and so declared.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Marelli
Chairman Conservation Commission.

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.