



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Mike Marelli

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

6:45 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marelli called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Marelli welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting.

II ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner James Harwood
Chair Michael E. Marelli
Commissioner David Holdridge
Commissioner Kathleen Edgcomb
Commissioner Betsy Graham

Excused Commissioner Roberta Levandoski
Commissioner Amy Stephenson

Non-voting Alternate Member Jessica Buhle
Alternate Member Barbara Kil

In addition, the following were present:
Town Counselor Rodriguez

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Chairman Marelli said he was asked about a piece of property behind the Outback Stables. Discussions will continue because the goal is to link the Burton Trail and Pike-Marshall and for Avalonia to turn it into a cross country trail.

Chairman Marelli also mention that he often heard stories that the Norwich to Westerly Trolley used to run through White-Hall Trail. Chairman Marelli found a map of abandoned train tracks in the United States which showed that the train came down from Preston to Ledyard, swung over to White-Hall then off to Route 2. It is now historically verified that the Norwich to Westerly Trolley train did indeed run through White-Hall Trail.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

VI. REPORTS**1. Conservation Commission Financial Reports**

The funds for FY23 have not been transferred yet.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Motion to Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2022**

Motion to APPROVE Regular meeting minutes from August 9, 2022 as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Betsy Graham

AYE 5 Harwood Marelli Holdridge Edgcomb Graham

EXCUSED 2 Levandoski Stephenson

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**1. Property Walks**

Chairman Marelli walked on 100 acres owned by the Town, the so-called Great Oak Preserve, north of the Nathan Lester House. Discussion about asking the Town to allow the Conservation Commission to develop and maintain trails on the property. Councilor Rodriguez said she would discuss this matter with the Town Council.

Mr. Harwood cleared a downed tree at White-Hall Park that was blocking a trail. He brought before and after pictures which Ms. Graham will post on the Conservation Commission Facebook page.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. White-Hall Environmental Assessment

Still waiting for report which may not be ready until Spring 2023.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Open Space Acquisition Plan

Chairman Marelli will send the plan to Ms. Edgecomb for editing in order to complete the final draft.

RESULT: CONTINUE

4. Collaborative meeting with certain Town Commissions

The Agricultural Commission is hosting an informal meeting on October 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss land use in the Town. Other commissions invited to attend include Land Use, Inland Wetlands, Zoning, Planning and Economic Development.

Mr. Graham asked if she could attend the meeting. Chairman Marelli said yes anyone may attend.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Future use of Former Dow property

No comments will be made until the plans are submitted.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6. LCC presence at Ledyard Farmers Market

The season has ended, the Commission will try again next year.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

7. Discussion with various parties concerning application of an OSWA grant.

Continued Discussion of OSWA Grant application

Mr. Holdridge reported the Mayor would co-sign a letter with the Commission Chairman to approach the owner of about 230 acres at 148 Stoddard Wharf Road to possible purchase for open space. If it is available the Town could apply to the state of Connecticut for an OSWA grant. Mr. Holdridge explained that OSWA is a State program to purchase open space across the State. If qualified OSWA could pay about 60 percent of the purchase price, with the Town raising the balance.

Mr. Holdridge also mentioned that he received a letter from Groton Utilities stating that GU liked the idea and that they had a good experience partnering with Avalonia but yet cannot promise any money to the Commission right now.

The Mayor pointed out a property to Mr. Holdridge that is for sale. The property is approximately 35 acres and close to Avery. It has a well on the end of the property. It could be a possible candidate for the grant. Mr. Harwood commented that it is a very rocky property. Chairman Marelli said that he thinks the Commission should explore this option and that he would meet with the Mayor regarding this.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

8. Any Other Old Business to Come before the Commission

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to Come before the Commission

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Marelli moved the meeting be ADJOURNED, seconded by Ms. Kil

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m

VOTE: 5-0 Approved and so declared

This was Approved and so declared.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: James Harwood

Respectively Submitted,

Chairman Marelli
Conservation Committee

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