



# **TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT**

## **Agricultural Commission**

### **~ AGENDA ~**

Chairman  
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

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**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format**

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#### **REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION**

**Meeting ID: 829 2465 1163**

**Passcode: 535854**

**Zoom Meeting link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82924651163?pwd=d1FkSlc5eUFibGE0dmp6cEU1QU5hZz09>

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. JOINT DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT (PLANNING & ZONING) AS WELL AS THE PLANNING & ZONING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INLAND WETLANDS/ WATERCOURSES AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS**
  - 1. Agricultural Commission Joint Work Session**
- IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS**
- V. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS**
- VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
- VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - 1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023**  
**Attachments:** [AG minutes 2-21-23](#)
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**
  - 1. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 1. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

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741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

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



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 23-1317

**Agenda Date:** 3/21/2023

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Agricultural Commission Joint Work Session

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 23-1316

**Agenda Date:** 3/21/2023

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from, February 21, 2023

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)



# **TOWN OF LEDYARD**

## **Agricultural Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman  
Bruce Garstka

#### **Regular Meeting**

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**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format**

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Garstka at 6:00 p.m.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Present** Community-at-Large Representative Michael E. Marelli  
Alternate Member- Community-at-Large William Thorne  
Farming Community Allyson Angelini  
Chairman-Farming Community Bruce Garstka  
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas

**Excused** Farming Community Russell Holmberg

**Non-voting** Alternate Member Steve Martic

Town Councilor Naomi Rodriguez was also present.

Mr. Thorne was appointed as a voting member for Mr. Holmberg.

#### **III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

#### **IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS**

None.

#### **V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mr. Thorne brought up a dispute between a maple syrup farmer and the town of Old Lyme and thought the Commission is doing the right thing by working with other Town Commissions.

#### **VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bruce Garstka

**SECONDER:** Katie Yuhas

**AYE** 5 Marelli Thorne Angelini Garstka Yuhas  
**EXCUSED** 1 Holmberg

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Layering on GIS system for farms with 25+ acres, parcels and open space.

The next meeting (March) is with several of the Town's Committees/Commissions. Chairman Garstka will reach out for an update on the GIS layering.

Mr. Thorne asked for clarification about the difference between GIS layering for farms and GIS layering for parcels over 25 acres. Chairman Garstka explained that farms could be on both layers depending on their size.

SECCOG is updating their maps with all of their Town's Open Spaces. Mr. Marelli recently sent SECCOG a list with all of Ledyard's Open spaces for the Conservation Commission. In addition, Mr. Marelli sent SECCOG a list of all Ledyard's 490s and farming properties. He was told that they are not working on a farm layer currently but possibly in the future. When Land Use finalizes their updates, Mr. Marelli will also submit that.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**2. Explore the avenue for preserving Farmland continued.**

Chairman Garstka met with Kathleen Dougherty at American Farmland Trust and she confirmed that the state of CT is mainly looking for prime farmland to preserve. Ledyard doesn't have much land that currently meets their requirements. Chairman Garstka suggested going forward the Commission should focus more on the CT Farm Land Preservation program (FPP) which would be more beneficial for the Farmers in Ledyard.

Mr. Marelli said that for large parcels, selling carbon credits is a possibility. He found a company that works with 40 acres+, and even applies for farmers who convert to no-till. It is a 20-year contract and can be complex. Chairman Garstka said it is worth exploring further.

The Commission discussed the differences between forest land and open space. The classifications are Farm, Forest and Open Space. Mr. Thorne asked if Forest can be a 490, it was answered yes, for example timber.

The Commission discussed the importance of local food given the forecasted potash shortage in Canada and encouraging raised bed gardening in Town. Ms. Yuhas mentioned that there are grants available for farmland restoration and new farmers. She wondered how the Commission can encourage agricultural production at parcels currently not being farmed. Ms. Yuhas suggested maybe the Commission can focus on how to educate people of the grants that are available to try and encourage people to farm.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED****3. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.**

Chairman Garstka spoke with a new farmer that had difficulties leasing land in Town and now is in North Stonington. Ms. Angelini mentioned the need for infrastructure, like water/electricity/fencing, for the production of certain agricultural products. Chairman Garstka agreed and said that this farmer needed access to water and electricity.

Mr. Marelli asked if there were tax breaks for equipment and buildings and the answer was yes, with limitations.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED****VIII. NEW BUSINESS****1. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission.**

None.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:24 p.m.

A motion was made by Chairman-Farming Community Garstka, seconded by Community-at-Large Representative Marelli, that this be Approved and so declared. The motion carried by the following vote:

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bruce Garstka

**SECONDER:** Michael E. Marelli

**AYE** 5 Marelli Thorne Angelini Garstka Yuhas

**EXCUSED** 1 Holmberg

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# TOWN OF LEDYARD

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**File #:** 23-1318

**Agenda Date:** 3/21/2023

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 23-1319

**Agenda Date:** 3/21/2023

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Any Other New Business to come before the Commission

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)