



Chairman Karen
Parkinson

TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Historic District Commission

~ AGENDA ~

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://ledyardct.zoom.us/j/84712860913?pwd=CfizUzCvkDpkO83SHrrApyvE8X0a6F.1>

Meeting ID: 847 1286 0913

Passcode: 188792

One tap mobile:

+16469313860,,84712860913#,,,188792# US

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

IV. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2026, as written.

Attachments: [Historic minutes 6-15-26](#)

VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Ty Lamb.

VII. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

1. General Report.
2. Financial Report.

Attachments: [Capital account YTD 7-15-26](#)
[General fund YTD 7-15-26](#)

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee.

Attachments: [Ledyard Sawmill Pond history](#)
[Ledyard sawmill dam assessment and next steps](#)

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.
3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.
4. Center School - Mr. Geer.
5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion in response to Dave Schroeder's request for HDC assistance with Gales Ferry Historic District having local zoning recognition, continued.
2. Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Discussion: Action Item 5.5. continued.

Attachments: [5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources sustainable CT](#)

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

File #: 26-1041

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2026, as written.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Karen
Parkinson

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Parkinson at 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Parkinson explained that the agenda needed to be completed earlier than usual and items will need to be added under Any Other Old Business and Any Other New Business.

II. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Parkinson welcomed new members Anne Roberts-Pierson and Kim Millar. She also stated that she will not be cancelling any of the Commission's summer meetings.

Present Commissioner Douglas Kelley
Chairman Karen Parkinson
Commissioner Rebecca Watford
Commissioner Anne Roberts-Pierson

Excused Commissioner Ammie Chittim
Alternate Member Kenneth Geer

Alternate Alternate Member Vincent Godino
Alternate Member Kim Millar

Also in attendance:

Ty Lamb, Town Council, serving as the Commission's Liaison.

Erik Treaster, Resident.

Dave Schroeder, Resident.

LeAnn Barry, Resident.

Chairperson Parkinson congratulated LeAnn Barry for being recognized as the "Linda Davis Woman of the Year".

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Mr. Godino was appointed as a voting member.

IV. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Mr. Shroeder, Mr. Treaster and Ms. Barry will hold their discussions under Old Business.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2026, as written.

Approved as amended to add Kelly Lamb to roll call.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Karen Parkinson

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 4 Kelley Parkinson Watford Roberts-Pierson

EXCUSED 2 Chittim Geer

VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Ty Lamb.

Councilor Lamb started his report by stating that he was the only Councilor that objected to canceling the Town Council summer meetings.

Councilor Lamb mentioned that he had a great meeting with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. The Tribe presented some possible ideas for the Commission to take on (or as a collaboration);

- Securing the Great Oak Tree Gathering Area.
- Identifying important sights such as Spicer and Rogerdine and some of their cultural sights.
- Joint archeological projects.
- Education initiatives.
- Curiosity in artifact collections. Mr. Kelley said he wanted to mention that technically the artifacts found at the Nathan Lester House belong to the Historical Society.
- Joint research.
- One of the Tribes projects are "witness stones".
- Quarterly Historical Conversations (Talk History).
- Conservation Project. Reintroducing herring fish.

Councilor Lamb suggested that the Commission decides which project are of interest and he could report back to the Tribe.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

1. General Report.

Chairperson Parkinson said the Commission prepared for the parade, but it was cancelled.

Chairperson Parkinson reported that she nominated Alan Gonang as the Rotary "Citizen of the Year" for his dedication to the Sawmill. She shared the nomination with the Commissioners:

"For the past 25 years Alan has been a volunteer at the Ledyard Water Powered Up Down Sawmill. In this capacity he has been in charge of all aspects of operating and maintaining the Mill. With the three or four volunteers he has recruited he has opened the Mill to public on Saturdays during the month of April, May, September and October. Visitors are treated to live presentations of water powered as it was done at this site 150 years ago. Alan narrates these demonstrations in a very professional manor and with knowledge gained over 25 years of hands-on experience. On Saturday when not open to the public Alan and his crew could be found at the Mill doing maintenance of 150-year-old equipment and building. If the Town had to contract for this work the cost would run into the thousands. He loves historical technology; Alan has developed an instructional website showing how the Sawmill operates. This site has brought visitors from as far away as Canada, it has drawn groups who are building replicas of mills such as ours and are seeking firsthand information on how they were built. The Ledyard Mill is on the National list of Historic Places and to our knowledge it is the only mill of that period and working with the original equipment and located on the original site. Through Alan and his team's efforts preservation of this Historic site in Ledyard is assured. Alan and his wife Nancy have lived in Ledyard for the past 40 years. Their daughter Sara graduated from the Ledyard School system. Alan has a PHD in biology. Nancy and Alan are active members of the Gales Ferry United Methodist Church as a representative of their church Alan has served as Treasurer of the Ledyard Emergency Assistance Fund. He is active with Avalonia Land Conservatory and volunteers for Habitat of Humanity and is an avid hiker, fisherman, photographer and woodworker. Alan Ganong is a volunteer extraordinaire".

Chairperson Parkinson added that Mr. Ganong will be recognized at the President's dinner at Lake of Isles on June 23, 2026.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Financial Report.

Mr. Godino said there is not much of the budget left at the end of the 2026 fiscal year.

- There is \$1,060 remaining in maintenance and \$686 in operating. The Sawmill has a purchase order for John Kelly to repair rotted posts on the north end of the building (next to the raceway).
- The Sawmill account will have \$330 remaining, which is mainly set aside for Holdridge. Mr. Godino explained that it is helpful to have an open Holdridge purchase order for when they are working on Saturdays and need something immediately.
- Preservation has \$138 remaining. The Sawmill donation account has \$8,000 (no change).
- The Capital account has \$46,000 remaining.
- The Nathan Lester House donation account has a balance of \$9,400.

Mr. Godino presented an invoice from 2025 from Integrated Security for an emergency at the Sawmill. A purchase order was never written for the invoice. The Sawmill has enough to cover the invoice. Mr. Godino will ask to have a PO created.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee.

Mr. Godino shared Mr. Gonang's report. The spring season just finished, and everything went well. There was enough water for a successful operation. Only a couple of Saturdays had rainy weather. The headgate is 20-25 years old and is leaking. The headgate will need to be replaced; Alan and his crew will rebuild it. More signs are needed at the Sawmill. There is new volunteer, Anthony Vino who started recently. Mr. Vino used to be a blacksmith at the Mystic Seaport and is interested in running the Blacksmith shop. Mr. Ganong mentioned that the cell service at the Sawmill is not great and the coverage is useless inside the building.

Mr. Godino reviewed concepts for the Sawmill dam. The first one is an auxiliary spillway and the second is to put material on top of the dam to protect it from an overflow situation. Mr. Godino shared a photo of the covering, one with grass growing over it and one without.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley shared his report:

"Late May saw preparation for our open season, with some changes to plans. Some room restoration was put on hold due to our new concerns in using modern materials rather than breathable, traditional ones. We will resume after this year's open season with linseed oil-based paints and other traditional method as appropriate.

Open day was Saturday, May 23 for the Memorial Day weekend. While visitorship was light, the Historical Society was able to install an exhibit in the museum kitchen. This is the "Bicentennial Kitchen," and features items that would have been found in a 1976 kitchen, including all the harvest gold, orange, and avocado Tupperware a person could ask for.

Though we are now in the semiquincentennial celebration year, the Society does not have a collection heavy on items from the time of Independence. Other than the Keeping Room, some slight refreshes in the rest of the house show history as it moved on into the modern era.

Prospective Eagle Scout, Dylan Moody, has built two benches for our trails. He and other Scout volunteers placed the benches on the pink trail at the top of the steep path and on the blue trail

facing the Lester Cemetery on June 5.

In preparation for the Garden Club workshop, the Orchard Field was mowed, and sod removed on the site, which is immediately behind the stone wall behind the Ell. The shed with share an axis with the Ell and align its gable ends with those of the Ell. Gravel was also delivered in advance for the base.

On Saturday, June 13, our American Heritage Girl volunteer, Grace Ayers, held her first workshop for the Garden Club project. She oversaw members of her troop, parents, and members of the Northford Timber Framers in preparing the base of the shed. A bed of gravel/crushed stone measuring 12' x 16' was laid. 6"x 6" pressure treated timbers were shaped with both traditional and modern tools into the base frame. The 8' x 10' base has half-lap joints at the corners. Two cross beams on the long ends have dovetail joints to help keep the frame pulled tight. Corners are secured with Timber Locks. The next workshop will take place July 25.

Maintenance of the Lester House grounds by our partners at Ledyard Public Works has been exceptional, as always. We wish to thank their grounds crew for their dedication to the museum and the quality of their work. They always take particular care in the Great Oak Garden, which really is the jewel of our grounds, and it is very much noticed by daily visitors.

As we move into our open season, we also wish to recognize our long-term partners, the Ledyard Historical Society and Ledyard Garden Club. Without them, the house and barns would be interesting, but empty, shells - devoid of life and context - and the grounds would similarly lack the charm and grace which only an active and well-maintained garden can bestow".

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.

Chairperson Parkinson said the Spicer Ruins had 2-3 volunteers working for 3-4 weeks until the weather became too hot. The Town said to an area of .73 acres for the study, but the volunteers are looking at the site as a whole. Odd groupings were discovered, which may be survey markers before the advent of stone walls (which was 1725). Chairperson Parkinson will go back to the Town Council to ask for their consideration of the larger sized site area.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Center School - Mr. Geer.

Ms. Watford reported that the Center School has opened for tours. The first opening day was during heavy rain, and no visitors came. The following weekend there were 8 visitors, including some schoolchildren. Ms. Watford is trying to generate more interest in the Schoolhouse, possibly with Library story times for children.

Ms. Watford confirmed that there is a definite issue with the front door which will need to be repaired or replaced. Mr. Godino suggested asking Mr. Kelly to evaluate the door.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.

Ms. Parkinson said currently no one is handling the Social Media portion. Mr. Kelley has access to the Historic Commission and the Nathan Lester House Facebook page; Mr. Ganong has access to the Sawmill page. Ms. Watford suggested asking the Town for an official Commission email.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. OLD BUSINESS**1. Discussion in response to Dave Schroeder's request for HDC assistance with Gales Ferry Historic District having local zoning recognition, continued.**

Mr. Schroeder reiterated that there are certain qualifications that the State of Connecticut requires to be considered Village District status such as distinctive character or historical importance. Mr. Schroeder asked for guidance as to what qualifications the Commission has in the POCD. Ms. Millar mentioned several important examples such as the Harvard compound, the Historic schoolhouse on Long Cove Road, the Bill Perkins house which has been restored, the Stoddard house (referred to as the "Tenement House"), a couple of Craftsman style houses, an Old Victorian Cottage, Charles Stoddard house, and the Asa Perkins House. Ms. Millar believes there are plenty of homes and in a variety of styles to qualify.

Motion to ESTABLISH a working subcommittee to research and document the historic properties and nature of the community in Gales Ferry south of the two recognized historic districts.

Mr. Kelley and Ms. Millar would be on the Committee along with community members.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Douglas Kelley

SECONDER: Rebecca Watford

AYE 4 Kelley Parkinson Watford Roberts-Pierson

EXCUSED 2 Chittim Geer

2. Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Discussion: Action Item 5.5. continued.

No discussion.

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

Confirmation of parade attendance.

Buntings for America 250. Letters will be sent requesting Historic homes have buntings on display for a historic drive through.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.
None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Karen Parkinson

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 4 Kelley Parkinson Watford Roberts-Pierson

EXCUSED 2 Chittim Geer

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TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1047

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Town Council Liaison - Councilor Ty Lamb.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1043

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

General Report.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1044

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Financial Report.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT 7-15-26

FOR 2027 13								
ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE	PCT	
0210 CAPITAL & NON RECURRING	APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET			BUDGET	USED	
21010103 HISTORIC DISTRICTS								
21010103 54300 REP MAINT	0	25,000	25,000	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%	
TOTAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS	0	25,000	25,000	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%	
TOTAL CAPITAL & NON RECURRING	0	25,000	25,000	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	0	25,000	25,000	.00	.00	25,000.00		

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT 7-15-26

FOR 2027 13								
	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED	
GRAND TOTAL	0	25,000	25,000	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%	
** END OF REPORT - Generated by Christina Hostetler **								

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT 7-15-26

FOR 2027 13								
ACCOUNTS FOR:	GENERAL FUND	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
10110103 HISTORIC DISTRICTS								
10110103	54500 BLDG MAINT	6,000	0	6,000	.00	.00	6,000.00	.0%
10110103	54501 SML MAINT	5,500	0	5,500	.00	.00	5,500.00	.0%
10110103	56100 OPERATING	6,060	0	6,060	.00	.00	6,060.00	.0%
10110103	56101 SML OPERAT	2,150	0	2,150	.00	435.00	1,715.00	20.2%
10110103	58790 MISC EXP	1,500	0	1,500	.00	.00	1,500.00	.0%
TOTAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS		21,210	0	21,210	.00	435.00	20,775.00	2.1%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		21,210	0	21,210	.00	435.00	20,775.00	2.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES		21,210	0	21,210	.00	435.00	20,775.00	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT 7-15-26

FOR 2027 13								
	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED	
GRAND TOTAL	21,210	0	21,210	.00	435.00	20,775.00	2.1%	
** END OF REPORT - Generated by Christina Hostetler **								



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1048

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Correspondence.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1049

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Sawmill Committee.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)

Ledyard Sawmill Pond History



April 2025. Drone photography Mint Productions



The current pond and dam

Description

The 2 1/4 acre pond is fed by the 800-acre Lee Brook watershed. Lee Brook stream flow is highly seasonal and responds quickly to rain events. Most summers the brook flow reduces to a trickle and the pond level lowers below the spillway crest. Late fall, winter and spring are the highest flow rates. During the coldest winters, the pond (and the turbine pit in the mill lower level) freeze. It's likely that mill was never operated year-round on this site.

The dam is about 150 feet long and 4.5 feet high (~9 feet from top to bottom of spillway). A 5 1/2-inch wood flashboard is placed on the crest of the 16.5 foot wide stone masonry spillway prior to mill operating seasons to raise the pond level. Flashboards are removed at the end of each visitor season (and removed during the season if a very heavy rain event is forecast).

The depth of the pond is probably ~five feet in the middle tapering to the edges. Dredging in the 1960s deepened the pond to an average of 5-6 feet (see below).

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection information

Dam No. 7219

Dam Name: Lee Brook Pond Dam

Dam Status: Active in Use

Dam Hazard Class: Class A. Low Hazard

(B) A Class A dam is a low hazard potential dam which, if it were to fail, would result in any of the following: (i) damage to agricultural land; (ii) damage to unpaved local roadways; or. (iii) minimal economic loss.

<https://deepmaps.ct.gov/datasets/connecticut-dams-public-use/explore?location=41.446646,-71.986622,16>

Ledyard Sawmill Pond History

(See maps, photos, and newspaper articles on following pages)

1845. First record of a mill on the property.

The Sawmill Park property was purchased by farmer, wheelwright, and soon-to-be miller Albert Brown from his older brother Avery in 1836. Avery owned and operated a sawmill about 1/2 mile upstream from Albert's new property. It's likely Albert dammed the brook in the early 1840s since he first started paying property taxes on mills in 1845. The water flow in Lee Brook is insufficient to power a mill without raising the water level with a dam. Over the years, Albert operated a shingle mill, gristmill, and finally a sawmill on the site.

1845-1890. Mills operated by Albert Brown and his sons.

Following Albert's death 1868, Albert's widow and sons (Israel, then Aaron) operated the mill until 1902.

1902-1937. Property transferred through foreclosure to Horace Main.

Horace Main had inherited the mill and property from the estate of his father William Leeds Main (which had foreclosed on Aaron Brown a few years earlier).

In the first few decades of the twentieth century, the sawmill operated at least part-time which would have required the pond/dam to be in sufficient condition to hold and release water. A circa 1930 photo shows stacks of logs near the mill and plenty of water in the pond (although the northwest corner of the pond looks quite shallow and weed-choked (which might be expected since foliage in the photo indicates it was taken during the summer when the pond is typically low).

1937-1966. Property owned by Harry C. Main.

Harry Main had lived on the property since about 1902 when his father inherited the mill and farm property. Harry in turn inherited the property in 1937 when Horace died. The mill stopped operating in the 1930s.

1966. Property purchased by the town of Ledyard.

The Town of Ledyard purchased the Sawmill Park property and sawmill building from Harry Main in 1966.

Photos from the 1960s show the dam is mostly intact when the town bought the park property. Aerial photos show the pond was about same size in the 1965 as in the 1930s.

1966-1975. Sawmill and dam restoration.

Work on the park and restoration of the sawmill occurred from about 1967 to 1975 with a grand opening of the restored mill as a museum in April 1975. The restoration work included dredging, dam/spillway repairs, and rebuilding the head gate penstock which direct water into the lower level of the mill. The pond was dredged in 1967 and again in the early 1970s; one of the goals of dredging was to make the pond suitable for swimming. In addition to the dredging, sand was transported in for a swimming beach. A 1966 Norwich Bulletin article claimed the pond had been known to locals as the "old swimming hole". In the late 1970s, it became clear that significant maintenance would be required to keep the pond usable for swimming and it was closed for swimming sometime after 1977.

1975-present.

The Ledyard Up-Down Sawmill museum is open for visitors Saturday afternoons for sawing demonstrations in April-May and October-November.

There were modifications to the dam in 1983 following a dam overflow in June 1982 which damaged the mill foundation: A buried concrete wall was added to the dam embankment in front of the mill building and the penstock was rebuilt.

The pond is approximately the same size now as when it was last dredged in the 1970s, but the average depth is no doubt reduced from flooding rain events and from the 50-year accumulation of washed-in leaves and other plant matter. Over the past 25 years the obvious increased area of aquatic plant growth (water lilies, cattails, etc.) indicates the pond is getting shallower.

Historic and pre-restoration photos and map

1854 map shows the pond and Albert Brown's gristmill site.

Walling and Baker 1854. Map of New London County, Connecticut. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3783n.1a000066/> Accessed 4/25/2026



Circa 1930. Sawmill and pond view from NE.

Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room,
Ledyard Bill Library.



Late 1960s. Pre-restoration.

Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room,
Ledyard Bill Library. 2011.1.46



Late 1960s. Pre-restoration.

Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room,
Ledyard Bill Library. 2011.1.214



1967. Dredging during restoration

Late 1960s. Likely soon after 1967 dredging.

Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room, Ledyard
Bill Library. 22011.53.1



Late 1960s. Likely soon after 1967 dredging.

View from dam toward parking lot.

Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room, Ledyard Bill



Photos from Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room, Ledyard Bill Library

2011.1.176



Alan Ganong 7/13/2026

2011.1.213



2011.1.211



4 of 6

New London Day, August 31, 1967, p. 24

THE DAY, NEW LONDON, CONN., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1967

Clearing Mill Pond In Ledyard

For Swimming, Picnics

Mill Pond Property Being Readied

LEDYARD — Workers for New London County Soil Conservation are excavating an old mill pond off Iron St. and leveling land around it to start creation of a swimming and picnicking place for the town.

Bulldozers manned by Calvin Main of Ledyard and Joseph Spring of Preston are clearing the bottom muck of the pond after its draining last week into a bypass near an old sawmill the Historical Society is interested in restoring.

Main said they are clearing a tract opposite the sawmill to be used as a beach. Here the grade is gradual and the depth will be more than seven feet, away from shore to provide a swimming hole.

The depth of the pond will average five to six feet after the silt has been cleared and the pond depression deepened. The bulldozers were getting to a gravel bed yesterday.

Main said picnic places will be provided to the northwest and southeast of the pond where the bulldozers have already rough graded the land. Much of the rich silt from the Pond has been mixed with the soil.

A road will be extended from Iron St. to go around the pond.

The town purchased the mill pond, sawmill and 11 acres last year from Harry C. W. Main, who lives nearby. The Parks and Recreation Committee requested and obtained budget money to begin improvement of the pond and to provide a municipal swimming place.

The New London County Soil Conservation is able to do the job at cost price under provisions of the state for aid in any projects aimed at conservation of land, ponds and woods.

The pond will be expanded from its original two and a quarter acres to two and a half acres, Main said.

Head engineer for the project is Winthrop Benjamin of Preston.

1974-1977. Re-dredging.

Page 20 The Day, New London, Conn., Monday, July 1, 1974,

Council Approves Money to Dredge Pond

LEDYARD — The Town Council has approved a \$3,000 special appropriation to pay for the dredging of the Main Sawmill Pond. Several councilors, however, objected to the "eleventh hour" appropriation request.

Mayor Arthur H. Jerbert, bringing the appropriation request to the council on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission, explained that a portion of the dredging could be accomplished using \$300 from this fiscal year and \$200 from the next fiscal year. He recommended that the entire pond be dredged.

The appropriation is needed immediately to fund the work,

he added. The council customarily waits two weeks before taking action on an appropriation request.

The pond, eventually to be used for swimming as a part of the town-owned Main Sawmill Park, will be dredged to a maximum depth of six feet. The bottom will be covered with sand, and the material recovered from the dredging will be used to fill a depression in the area being developed as a beach. Silt, from about four inches to two feet deep, will be removed from the pond bottom.

Finance Committee Chairman Howard R. Flora opposed the appropriation because the

commission had not stressed the importance of the dredging during the fiscal 1974-75 budget deliberations. Also, the commission could not provide the council with an accurate estimate of what the operation would cost at that time.

"I hate to be opposed to a good project, but we have to set down procedures," he declared.

"I agree with Howard," Council Chairman Walter G. Eichler said. "This would be very poor planning and practice. We have to live within our budget."

Robert Johnson, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who attended the

meeting, replied that the extent of the dredging needed had been underestimated until the pond was actually drained.

Councilor B. Kenneth Koe supported the appropriation but conceded that the method was improper.

"But I don't hold to an inflexible policy," Koe said, "and this is a good thing for Ledyard."

Councilor David A. Holdridge added his support.

"Let's cut through the red tape and get this project done," he declared.

The issue passed by a 6 to 3 vote with Councilors Flora, Eichler and Bruce J. Dunbar opposing the appropriation.

The Hartford Courant,
Jul 10, 1974 p. 49

Ledyard

Pond Dredging Nearly Done

LEDYARD — Sawmill Park ought to commit the money to diately able to contact Janet Sit-son will be open for public ba-thing. Benjamin so that the park could be ready for use soon.

Dredging operations on Sawmill Pond were completed this week. Previously partial dredging during the past two years has failed to keep the water clear of sediment and vegetation.

This week's excavation was conducted by Winthrop Benjamin, as were the earlier ones, using \$500 appropriated by Ledyard Town Council members.

Ledyard's new beach area will be three times the size of the recently opened Indiantown Pond, which is on Iron Street. The bottom will be sandy, with maximum depth at six feet.

Originally, the town did not have enough money available to pay for a thorough dredging of the historic pond site.

Mayor Arthur H. Jerbert at the last regular council meeting, June 28 had asked for \$3,000, the estimate for the project's cost.

But the mayor and Benjamin learned July 3 that at least one more day was needed to complete the task, as well as an additional \$500.

Because a gentlemen's agreement was made that the \$500 was not to be expended, but would be turned back into the general fund next June 30, Mayor Jerbert decided to conduct an informal telephone poll of council members to see if he

ty to see what she had to say. As council policy dictates, five "yes" votes are needed to pass a motion.

Counting council Chairman Kenneth Koe, William Evans, Bruce Dunbar, Joseph Bryson, and David A. Holdridge, responded affirmatively to the idea. The mayor was not im-

High Bacteria Count Cited

State Closes Sawmill Pond

Ledyard

LEDYARD — State health inspectors have banned swimming at Sawmill Pond.

The pond is one of the few fresh water swimming areas easily accessible to Ledyard residents, but a high coliform (bacteria) count in the pond has made it unsafe for swimming, state officials said.

Donald Griese, parks and recreation director, said Friday he sees no way of immediately remedying the problem. He said water gets dirty when the amount of water decreases and the number of people using it increases. The bacteria can cause dysentery, he said.

"There is a stream that normally feeds the pond. But because it's been dry here, the stream stopped flowing I don't know how many months ago," Griese said. He said rain would help clean the pond.

"Now if I had a gigantic block of ice we could haul into the pond, the water level would rise and there would be a more normal distribution of bacteria," Griese said with a laugh.

All swimming areas probably contain some coliform, but routine tests conducted recently by the state Depart-

ment of Health have determined that the amount of bacteria in Sawmill Park is dangerous to humans.

The pond was dredged by the town and is part of the Sawmill Historic District.

Griese said the pond will be tested every few weeks until it can be reopened.

Aerial and satellite images 1934-2025

April/May 1934

UConn Map & Geographic Information Center (MAGIC)

<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/aerialphotos/1934>



March/April 1965

UConn Map & Geographic Information Center (MAGIC)

<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/aerialphotos/1965>



Feb 2020 Northwest corner of pond is filled in compared to 1934 and 1965 images.

Google Earth. Accessed 4/26/2026



August 2025

Google Earth. Accessed 4/26/2026



Ledyard Up-Down Sawmill Dam Condition Assessment and proposed solutions



Dam description and history

- Dam is about 150 feet long and 4.5 feet high (~9 feet from top to bottom of spillway).
- The 16.5 foot wide stone masonry spillway is raised with a 6-inch wood flashboard during sawmill operating season to raise the pond level.
- **Historic dam.** There was a dam in place in the 19th century when there were mills on this site.
- **1970.** Work on the dam was part of the multi-year mill restoration around 1970 which included rebuilding the spillway and head gate and race. The pond was also dredged.
- **Mid-1980s.** There were modifications to the dam in 1983 following a dam overflow in June 1982 which damaged the mill foundation. A buried concrete wall was added to the upstream dam embankment in front of the mill building.
- Stream flow is highly seasonal and responds quickly to rain events. Most summers the brook flow reduces to a trickle. Late fall, winter and spring are highest flow rates.
- **Overflows since 2000.** There have been 8-10 overflows following heavy rain events. Largest overflow event was following the heavy rains which occurred in late March 2010.
 - During the largest overflows since 2000, water has flowed down into and through the dam-side mill foundation into the lower level of the mill, and around north and south sides of mill.
 - Over flows during this period have caused damage to the dam earth embankment and masonry supports, and also results in voids directly in front of the mill building pond-side foundation
- **Apparent changes in the dam.** Since 2000, there has been noticeable settlement and movement of stones in the dam face, settling in the dam crest, and washout along the dam and in front of the mill foundation.

Evaluation of current dam condition and risks

- In spring 2025, the Historic District Commission contracted with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. to evaluate the condition of the dam, provide an overview of risks, and outline options to reconfigure the dam to address risks.

Inspection and report (April/May 2025)

- James Davis, P.E. (GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Glastonbury CT office)

GZA key findings and analysis

- Overall the dam is in good condition (although at risk from floods that lead to overtopping).
- The crest of embankment is uneven with settlement apparent along downstream stone wall (included misplaced stones). Spillway is in good condition.
- Dam is at risk from overtopping which is the most common cause of failure for similar dams.
 - “deficiencies included an uneven crest, erosion at the masonry wall downstream toe, misaligned stones in the wall, and voids in portions of the downstream wall at the sawmill building.” (GZA report page 5)
 - “Overtopping of an earthen and stone masonry dam is a serious dam safety concern that, left unaddressed, is likely to lead to dam failure.” (GZA report page 3)
 - “With a 1 foot of water over the dam, I think the potential for failure is high, at least partial failure.” (J. Davis 6/24/2025 email)

Table 1. Estimated inflow from storms

Storm	Inflow to pond (cfs)	Estimated dam overtopping
2-year	80	Overtopping threshold
10-year	190	0.6
50-year	330	1
100-year	400	1.2
500-year	600	1.6

Notes for table:

Capacity of current 16.5 ft wide spillway is **63 cfs**.

10- and 50-year estimates from J. Davis 6/24/2025 email.
100- and 500-year estimates from May 2025 GZA report.

Conceptual Alternative No. 1 Rehabilitation - Overtopping Protection (from GZA)

Key features

- New 2-foot earthen dike near NE corner of pond
- New 2 foot parapet wall on top of dam (south end at existing spillway)
- New 2 foot parapet wall below dam on south and east sides of mill building
- New ACB (articulated concrete block) on dam embankment.
 - See example photos of ACB usage on last page
- New ACB on downstream side of dam
- New 2-foot tall earthen dike south of existing spillway

Drawing from GZA report 47451 - Lee Brook Pond Dam - OPC Memo -Final 4.9.2026. - Revision 1.pdf

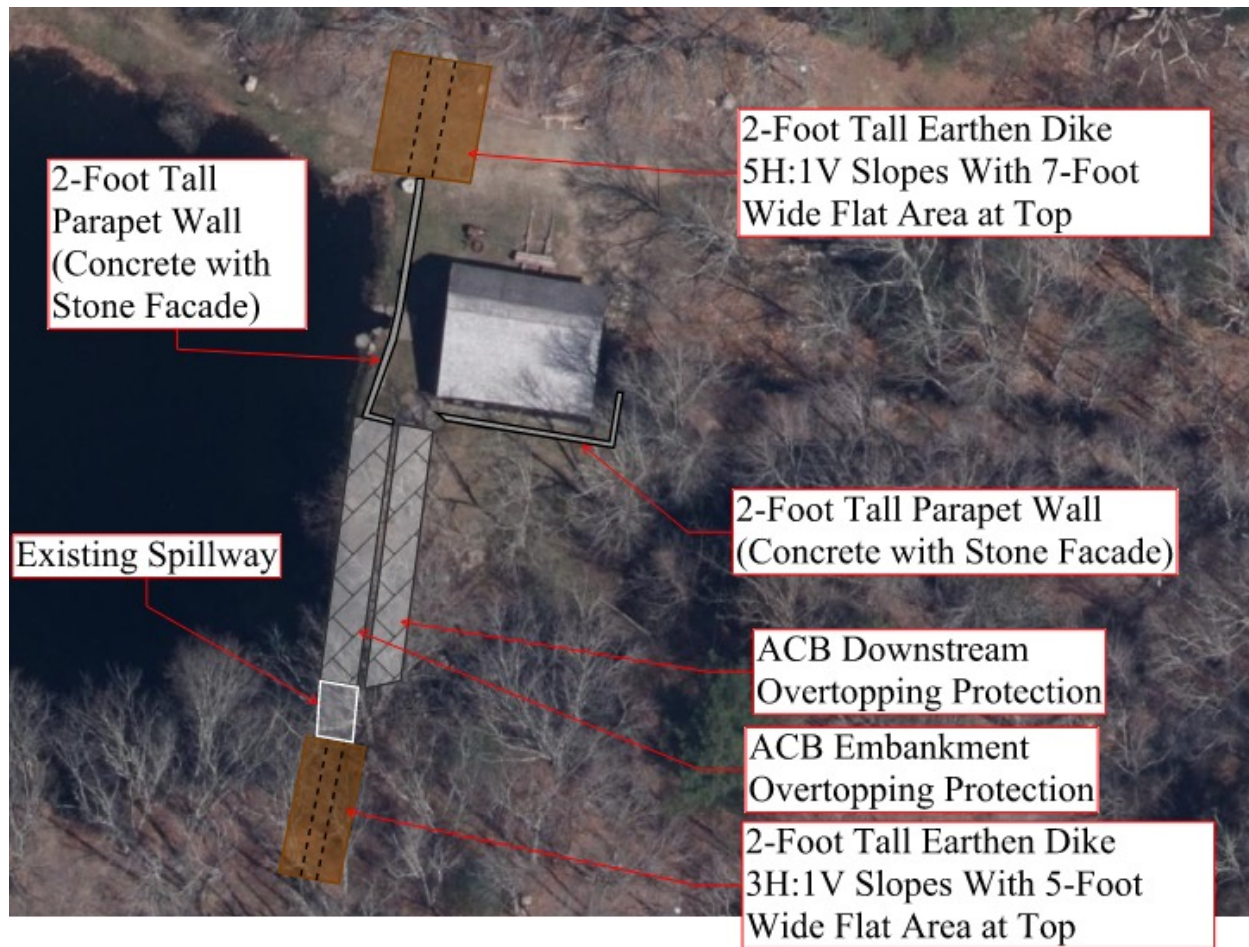


Figure 1- Conceptual Alternative No. 1 Rehabilitation- Overtopping Protection

Conceptual Alternative No. 2 Rehabilitation- Auxiliary Spillway (from GZA)

Key features

- New 2-foot earthen dike near NE corner of pond
- New 2 foot parapet wall on top of dam (south end at existing spillway)
- New 2 foot parapet wall below dam on south and east sides of mill building
- New auxiliary spillway south of existing spillway
- New Auxiliary spillway channel

Drawing from GZA report 47451 - Lee Brook Pond Dam - OPC Memo -Final 4.9.2026. - Revision 1.pdf



Figure 2- Conceptual Alternative No. 2 Rehabilitation- Auxiliary Spillway

Examples of Articulated Concrete Blocks (ACB) for concept 1 - Overtopping Protection
(Photos provided by GZA)





TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1050

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1051

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 3.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
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Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1052

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 4.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Center School - Mr. Geer.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
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Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1053

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 5.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Social Media - Ms. Lamb.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
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Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1054

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Discussion in response to Dave Schroeder's request for HDC assistance with Gales Ferry Historic District having local zoning recognition, continued.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1055

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Discussion: Action Item 5.5. continued.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

5 – 50 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2026. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Proactively plan for and implement projects to protect your community's historic resources for education and reuse.

Complementary Action:

- [Assess Climate Vulnerability](#)

What to Do

Best practices for historic places can be found within the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places](#). Technical assistance is available from Preservation Connecticut; see Sustainable CT's [no-cost assistance page](#) for more details.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Identify multiple priority historic assets within your community and actions required to sustain their long-term viability. All assets should be listed regardless of public or private ownership. Actions are only required for assets that are municipally-owned; they should be specific to each asset listed. Please include a short description of each location and note if the location is privately or municipally owned. **(10 points)**

Assets may include:

- Historic buildings,
- Parks,
- Natural resources,
- View-sheds,
- Public spaces,
- Stone walls,
- Other

Submit: The list of priority historic resources and the list of actions required to sustain their long-term viability. The [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can help pay for such services. If your list was created more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

2. For at least one historic asset in your municipality, perform a conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places. Include in the assessment the sustainability of each building present, possibility of energy retrofits, vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, etc. You may assess the viability for up to three different assets. **(10 points per asset, up to 3 assets or 30 points)**

Submit: A completed [worksheet](#) and the conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places](#) for each historic resource listed in your inventory. The [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can help pay for such services. If your assessment was completed more than three years ago, include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

3. Sponsor or host an educational workshop or program to educate owners of historic homes on how to manage their historic building(s) sustainably (for example, through energy audits or energy efficiency upgrades). Educational workshops must have taken place in the last three years; current, long-term educational programs that provide ongoing information are also eligible for points. [Preservation Connecticut](#) and the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) offer these workshops and [may be able to assist your municipality](#). **(5 points)**

Submit: A brief overview of outreach (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); date of event (if applicable); and at least one example of educational materials disseminated in the last three years, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

4. Achieve "Certified Local Government" status. See the [Certified Local Government Program](#) on the CT Department of Economic and Community Development website for additional information on how to work towards your certification. Certified Local Government status may unlock grant opportunities and other support for preservation activities in your community. **(5 points)**

Submit: Proof of recognition from the National Park Service regarding attainment of *Certified Local Government* status.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the ["Partners Guidance Document"](#).

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning and zoning, parks and recreation, public works, and economic development departments could be helpful in implementing this action. Your historic preservation commission, planning and zoning commission, energy commission, local historic society, local art league, CT Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Culture and Tourism, and Preservation Connecticut could help implement this action.

Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Support for Your Town](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)
- [State Funding Readiness Project](#)

Funding outlined below may be beneficial to creating the historic inventory and/or implementing action items listed in your inventory.

- [Historic Restoration Fund Grant](#)
- [Survey and Planning Grants for Historic Inventories](#)
- [Planning and Pre-Development Grants](#)
- [Partners in Preservation Grant](#)

Funding available to communities with Certified Local Government status:

- [Historic Preservation Enhancement Grants \(HPEG\)](#)
- [Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Trust for Historic Preservation, [“Inventory of Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Properties, Connecticut”](#)
- Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, [Connecticut Cultural Resources Information System](#)
- Preservation Connecticut, [Circuit Riders](#)
- National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, [“Sustainability”](#)
- National Park Service, [“NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline”](#)
- National Preservation Institute, [“What are ‘Cultural Resources?’”](#)
- [GSA](#)
- Certified Local Governments: [CT Department of Economic and Community Development](#)
- [National Park Service - Certified Local Government Program](#)
- National Park Service, [“The Treatment of Historic Properties”](#)
- [Energize CT](#)
- [Sample Preservation Restriction/Easement](#)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, [“Climate and Culture”](#)
- National Park Service, [“National Park Service Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy”](#)
- New London Fire Department Headquarters Building, [Conditions Assessment Report](#)
- The First Church of Christ Congregational East Haddam, [Connecticut Conditions Assessment Report](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Trust For Historic Preservation](#)
- [CT Main Street](#)
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, [Office of Culture and Tourism](#)
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, [State Historic Preservation Office](#)
- [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)
- [American Alliance of Museums](#)
- [National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)

Why This Matters

Every community has a variety of historic resources that include buildings, landscapes, monuments, art installations, archaeological sites, stone walls, and public spaces. The reuse of buildings is ultimately recycling them for a new use and utilizing the embodied energy it contains. This embodied energy, which is the measurement of energy used in the process of building, from the extraction of raw materials like harvesting trees - to the final installation of the finished material, is saved when a building is reused. Protecting historic resources also retains the touchstones of communities; places that have existed for decades anchor a community and enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors. Proactive planning for preservation allows a municipality to know what they have, why it's important to the people and environment, and welcome potential opportunities for new uses.

Benefits

Historic resources perform a vital function in a community by:

- Contributing to local community character,
- Instilling attachment to place,
- Attracting a talented workforce, and

- Encouraging tourism.

By protecting local historic resources from a host of threats, (for instance, climate change), you ensure that present and future generations can enjoy these sites.

CT Success Stories

- [Cheshire - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Darien - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Wilton - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Granby - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Branford - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Haddam - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Marlborough - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Old Saybrook - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Thomaston - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Southbury - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Suffield - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Vernon - May 2025 Certification](#)
- [Mansfield - Oct 2025 Certification](#)
- [Southbury - Oct 2025 Certification](#)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 26-1056

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 3.

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

File #: 26-1057

Agenda Date: 7/20/2026

Agenda #: 1.

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)