



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Farming Community Russell Holmberg
Farming Community William Thorne
Farming Community Michael E. Marelli

Excused Farming Community Allyson Angelini

Bill Thorne was present via Zoom.

Also in attendance was Ty Lamb, Town Councilor.

Steve Martic was appointed as a voting member.

III. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None present.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

No comments.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

Chairman Garstka shared a copy of the Clark Farm Lease agreement with the Commissioners.

Chairman Garstka shared a post card from Enchanted Wishes Boutique. He said Commissioners with shops may want to consider having a booth with some of their merchandise. He added it

may be a good opportunity to help other businesses and add something to their businesses that they don't already have.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

Chairman Garstka said the Commissioners should now receive emails from the CT Farm Bureau.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2026, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 6 Yuhua Martic Garstka Holmberg Thorne Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Angelini

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison report.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, said he has been advertising the Commission's April joint meeting.

Councilor Lamb mentioned that there may be an opportunity for a collaboration meeting between the School, Conservation Commission and the Agricultural Commission.

Chairperson Garstka said he also spoke with the High School and said although the students are not required to do community service some of the students may still be interested. Chairperson Garstka suggested having a calendar for students to view with agricultural opportunities. Commissioners could call the school to give information on field trip opportunities and parameters such as "must be accompanied by an adult" etc.

Councilor Lamb said he is planning to arrange a meeting with the BOE superintendent, Devon O'Keefe, and Chairman Garstka for a discussion on how the Agricultural Commission and local farmers could facilitate interaction.

Councilor Lamb stated that if the Commission ever has anything that needs to be presented or elevated to the Town Council to let him know.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any other Old Business to come before the Commission.

Chairman Garstka encouraged the Commissioners to bring any comments, questions or ideas forward during the Agricultural Joint Meeting in April. Chairman Garstka explained to Councilor Lamb that he would like members from each Committee to attend; it does not have to be the Chairperson. Ms. Yuhas asked if there will be specific items on the joint meeting agenda. Chairperson Garstka said no, he does not want the meeting to be formal but rather have Commissioners speak about what their Commission is doing/planning.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any other New Business to come before the Commission.

Mr. Thorne said he recently visited the Tri-Town Trails and said someone has done a great job cutting back the overgrowth on Clark Farm and asked who performed the work since the contract expired. No one on the Commission knew the answer and referred Mr. Thorne to Karen Parkinson, Historic Chairperson.

Mr. Thorne commented that the Farmer's Market Committee tried to work with the AG program at the High School to recruit volunteers but was unsuccessful. The AG Program Director wanted the Farmer's Market Committee to provide a curriculum. Mr. Thorne said there is a lot of High School students that support the marker on their own, going through the AG school would be more work than it was worth. Chairman Garstka said perhaps there was a miscommunication or maybe this is something that could be set up differently.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:20 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 6 Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Thorne Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Angelini

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