



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gartska called the Regular Meeting to order 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
Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community Russell Holmberg

III. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Dennis Ljubicic, 41 R3 Long Pond Rd.

Mr. Ljubicic, and his wife moved to town about a year ago. Their parcel is approximately 25 acres and they are raising meat chickens. They are interested in PA-490 exemption. Chairman Garstka explained that the Town requires a plan for agricultural use. Mr. Holmberg recommended a guide published by the Farm Bureau. Ms. Angelini recommended that they visit the Town Assessor's office for more information.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

In response to discussion at the April meeting, Ms. Angelini brought it to the attention that there are (at least) two community gardens in town: one at Ledyard Senior Housing and another at the Gallup Hill School.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting minutes from May 16, 2023, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Russell Holmberg

AYE 7 Marelli Thorne Angelini Garstka Yuhas Martic Holmberg

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Assess what the Commission has already done and where to go in the future continued.

Chairman Garstka said the Commission needs to take a new direction of where to go and solidify where the Commission has been.

Chairman Garstka said that Agricultural land in Ledyard is shrinking and Ledyard is not high on the State's priority list. Given the quality of agricultural land in town, Chairman Garstka would like to become a model for preserving land at the town level. He suggested using tax payments towards payment of the development rights of agricultural, at which the end of the contract the town would own the rights. Ms. Yuhas said she would be interested in knowing how many farms in Town would be interested in selling their development rights. The Commission discussed the feasibility of the concept.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

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

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:48 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 7 Marelli Thorne Angelini Garstka Yuhas Martic Holmberg

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