



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Mike Marelli

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marelli at 6:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Roberta Levandoski
Commissioner James Harwood
Commissioner Kathleen Edgecomb
Commissioner Betsy Graham
Commissioner Barbara Kil
Commissioner Michael E. Marelli
Excused Commissioner David Holdridge

Betsy Graham and Barabara Kil were present via Zoom.
Barbara Kil joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Also in attendance:
Town Councilors Gary Paul, Liaison to the Commission
Town Councilor Naomi Rodriguez.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Special Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2023, as written.

Barbara Kil was not present for this vote.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Roberta Levandoski

AYE 5 Levandoski Harwood Edgecomb Graham Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Holdridge

IV. CORRESPONDANCE

1. Correspondence.

Pamphlet from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational Items.

Besty Graham will attend a meeting of the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed on January 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Mystic Aquarium. Ms. Graham asked if other members of the Commission could also attend the meeting.

The State of Connecticut is updating its Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission will wait until the State adopts a new plan before deciding to comment. The Commission will use the document when doing its own planning for Town properties.

Ms. Graham reported that the Lantern Hill Valley Park is trying to get a grant to an aquatic survey for Bush Pond and Long Pond. They are looking for Town support to apply for a grant to do the survey but the deadline to apply is the end of January. Councilor Rodriguez said she will inquire if there is anything the Town can do to support the application or provide funds for a survey.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Property Walks.

Mr. Harwood walked White-Hall property and took down a few branches that were blocking paths. He said the blue and yellow trails are passable. Kettle Hole Park looks good for the winter.

Ms. Levandoski reported that the rain garden at the Ledyard up-down Sawmill is in good condition after recent heavy rains.

Chairman Marelli reported that the rain garden at Highland Park is not working properly and will need to be corrected. He also reported that Avalonia Land Trust is doing a forest management plan for Pike Marshall property. Chairman Marelli will contact the State of Connecticut to see if the State Forester can survey the Burton Preserve.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Financial Reports.

No change since last month.

3. Pollinator Pathways Project continued.

No comments.

4. Field clearing at White-Hall Property.

No comments.

5. New signage at White-Hall Property.

No comments.

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

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Areas of interest and goals for 2024.

1. Trails need to be re-marked. The Commission will create a list of what trails need attention.
2. Work with Avalonia to coordinate signs and paths for Pike Marshall property.
3. Discuss sustainability and resilience for forests and open space in Town and how the Commission can be of assistance to the Town.
4. Redo the Highland Park Rain Garden.
5. Finish planting the riparian buffer at new Lantern Hill Park.
6. Work with the Town Council's Community Relations Committee and invite the public to Lantern Hill Park, possibly provide a history of Long Pond. Councilor Paul offered to assist.
7. Work more closely with Avalonia Land Trust for better access to the Hoffman Preserve.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

AYE 6 Levandoski Harwood Edgecomb Graham Kil Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Holdridge

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