



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Historic District Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Ty Lamb

#### Regular Meeting

**Monday, April 21, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format**

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

Doug Kelley was acting Chairman for this meeting.

Mr. Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

**Present**     Commissioner Douglas Kelley  
                  Alternate Member Vincent Godino  
                  Commissioner Kelly Lamb  
                  Commissioner Ammie Chittim  
                  Commissioner Karen Parkinson

**Excused**     Chairperson Ty Lamb

**Alternate**    Alternate Member Kenneth Geer  
                  Commissioner Rebecca Watford

Rebecca Watford was present via Zoom.

Ammie Chittim was present via Zoom at 7:16 p.m.

#### **III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES**

Mr. Godino was appointed as a voting member.

#### **IV. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS**

None present.

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

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2025, as written.

**RESULT:**     APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:**     Kelly Lamb

**SECONDER:** Karen Parkinson

**AYE**            5    Kelley Godino Lamb Chittim Parkinson

**EXCUSED**     1    Lamb

**VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Bill Barnes.  
No report, Mr. Barnes was absent due to a conflict.

**VII. CHAIRMAN REPORT**

1. General Report.  
No report, Chairman Lamb was absent due to a conflict.
2. Financial Report.  
No comments.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence.  
None.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Sawmill Committee.

Mr. Kelley reported that the Sawmill is in operation and going well. There is plenty of water. Mr. Geer asked about the dam report. Mr. Godino said the report should be ready by the end of the week.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

On Tuesday, March 25, the producers of the Fog of War movie hosted a pre-release showing of the film at the Garden Arts Center in New London. The film showing was followed by an on-stage interview of Director, Mike Day, Production Designer, Jourdan Henderson, and Producer, Andrew DeCesare, who expressed their appreciation of local support in creating the film.

Groundwork has continued to clear invasives, especially along the stone walls. Weather has delayed the work, but the project to improve the front lawn of the house is underway, and Mr. Kelley has volunteered to restore the fence. There is a purchase order in the works to buy the materials needed for the fence repair. The gate post on the right side (facing the house) needs replacement and the sod needs to be pulled away and replaced with pea gravel.

Restoration of the study is underway. As it is a small space, it will be complete prior to opening season.

Mr. Kelley reported that various events are scheduled for the house, garden, and grounds starting this coming weekend with the Cub Scouts and continuing into September.

Mr. Godino asked about the status of the house. Mr. Kelley answered that several decisions are still pending. Ms. Erikson is working with Chairman Lamb and Mr. Kelley on these discussions. Mr. Kelley commented that the house is in great condition and added that the gardens are beautiful right now. He encouraged the Commissioners to visit the garden. Mr. Kelley seeded the lawns a month or so ago and it's starting to grow thanks to the recent rain. Mr. Godino asked if the house will still be opened on Memorial Day, Mr. Kelley answered yes.

Mr. Kelley said that he will perform a walk-thru in a few weeks with the bride that will be getting married on the grounds in June.

Ms. Fossum has reserved the house for June 21 for a memorial service.

The Graves Hill Family reunion is in July and a pre visit in May.

There are other smaller events planned as well.

Ms. Parkinson asked how the Fog of War movie was. Mr. Kelley said the Garde Arts attendance was large. He said he watched it at the Garde Theatre and again later using a streaming service. The movie is streamed on Amazon, Fandango, & Apple. Mr. Godino commented that the house and grounds were the stars of the movie.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.**

Ms. Chittim reported that she is still trying to become a Historical Society Member. She is in a holding pattern before being allowed to perform research off hours. Mr. Kelley said he would speak to them.

Ms. Parkinson said that she and Chairman Lamb are still working on the Spicer Ruins presentation for the land Use Department. She sent a rough draft to Mr. Kelley. Ms. Parkinson will suggest to Chairman Lamb that they complete step one. She explained that there are several steps to follow. The first step is a requirement for the Town Council to make a request that the Commission conduct a study to recognize the ruins as "historic property". Ms. Parkinson recommended that the Commission asks Liaison William Barnes to make a request to the Town Council to ask the Commission to perform an investigation of the Spicer Ruins. The study/investigation has already been completed but the first step of the Town Council request to the Commission needs to be checked off.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Ask the Commission's Liaison - William Barnes to make a request to the Town Council for the Commission to perform an investigation of the Spicer Ruin as a historic property.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**4. Center School - Mr. Geer.**

Nothing to report since the last meeting. All is well. Mr. Godino asked if there are any maintenance items that need to be completed. Mr. Geer said not currently.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.**

177 followers, month of Feb 2,110 views, March 3554 views.

Continue to post pictures of the Commission's historical sites as well as Historical sites around Town. If anyone has anything to contribute, to please send it to Ms. Lamb anytime.

Ms. Parkinson said while performing research for America 250 she looked up "Ledyard" on Wikipedia which lists Ledyard's National Historic places. She commented that she did not know that Applewood Farm, Mashantucket Pequot Reservation Archeological District, Perkins House and Captain Mark Stoddard Farmstead were on the list. Ms. Parkinson was pleased with the Wikipedia page on Ledyard. Ms. Watford added that the Town Website has historic houses listed on it as well.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**X. OLD BUSINESS****1. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.**

None.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS****1. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission.**

Mr. Kelley said he wanted to discuss America 250. At the last meeting they planned "Two Lights for Tomorrow" participation. This included taking photos of candles at the Nathan Lester House to submit the proper website. Some of these photos were posted on the Commission's Facebook page.

As of now, the Nathan Lester House will be used for the 4th of July kickoff. This event will be used to spread the word and invite potential participants for the 250 celebrations. There will be an entire calendar from this point until July 2026.

Some of the ideas:

Time capsule - there will be a survey to decide what to put into capsule. The capsule would be buried on July 4, 2026.

School engagement - design voting stickers at all three levels (elementary, middle and high).

Roaming exhibit of significant Ledyard residents - possible at the schools.

Contest - to memorize all or a portion of the Declaration of Independence.

Cemetery tours.

Spicer ruin hikes.

Family friendly hayride with re-enactors possibly at the Spicer ruin.

Fall bulb plantings.

Mr. Kelley will share the official schedule when it is available.

Mr. Kelley said there is a Town website for the celebration. Ms. Parkinson asked if there are links on the website to 250 events in surrounding towns. Mr. Kelley said there is some coordination with other towns, for example with Groton, to possibly make a trade for the Colonel Ledyard sword. Mr. Kelley asked the Commission to share ideas.

Mr. Godino returned a resident call from Joyce Reynolds. Ms. Reynolds is looking for a home for her Great-Great-Grandfather's sword and diary from the Civil War. Mr. Godino felt the Historical Society would be the best place for these items. Ms. Reynolds will get back in touch with Mr. Godino after she investigates the connections to Ledyard.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Vincent Godino

**SECONDER:** Ammie Chittim

**AYE** 5 Kelley Godino Lamb Chittim Parkinson

**EXCUSED** 1 Lamb

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