



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance was Karen Parkinson from the Tri-Town Trail.

Mr. Martic was appointed as a voting member.

Mr. Thorne joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:05 p.m. at which time he was appointed as a voting member.

Ms. Angelini joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m. at which time Mr. Martic was put back as an alternate member.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chairman Garstka asked Ms. Parkinson if she wanted to speak now, she said she would speak later in the meeting during the Clark Farm discussion.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Holmberg

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Clark Farm Property.

Chairman Garstka spoke with Mayor Allyn III regarding the Clark Farm property, and he recommended that Chairman Garstka speaks to the Town Council since the farm is under their control. Chairman Garstka called Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor who advised writing a letter to the Town Council, which was put on the last Town Council Meeting as correspondence. Chairman Garstka also spoke with Steve Masalin, Public Works Director to find out what it would cost the Town to maintain the field. Walter Majcher term is expiring next year, and he does not have plans to renew the lease. Chairman Garstka spoke with Bill Geer has the required equipment and may be interested. Ms. Parkinson said the High School Vo-Ag department may be interested also. Ideally Chairman Garstka said he would like the opportunity offered to Ledyard residents and suggested instead of charging a lease having a list of goals such as removing invasives and clearing around the walls. Chairman Garstka said that Mr. Majcher said he would mow the fields one more time before his term expires.

Ms. Parkinson said that a town owned farm in South County Rhode Island had a situation in 2007 where the farm was overgrown with invasive plants and a "Friends of Canonchet Farms" was formed. The group removed the invasives and now holds several workshops, events and walks. Ms. Parkinson read the following from the Friends of Canonchat website:

"The Friends of Canonchet Farms was created in 2007 by a group of Narragansett residents who recognized this forgotten parcel of land could be preserved as a natural space for the community to enjoy. The group has evolved into a partnership with the Town to provide funding and volunteers for enhancing the property. We are committed to help create a natural park for the enjoyment and education of Narragansett residents and visitors".

Ms. Parkinson said she attended the meeting as a concerned citizen and would like to see Ledyard residents involved in an effort to turn Clark Farm into a public space that residents could use for kite flying, walking, etc. Mr. Thorne said he believes that the Town does a great job maintaining the spaces it already has such as the Nathan Lester House and doesn't think more burden should be put on the town, especially in the midst of budget cuts. The Commission talked

about the importance of preserving farmland and would like to speak with the Town Council about preservation, maintenance and controlling of invasive plants on the Clark Farm property.

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

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka said he is considering canceling the December meeting and wanted to give the Commissioners some notice.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:34 p.m.

This was Approved and so declared.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

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