

# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

# **Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Ty Lamb

# **Regular Meeting**

Monday, November 17, 2025

7:00 PM

**Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format** 

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kelley was acting Chairman.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present** Chairman Douglas Kelley

Alternate Member Vincent Godino Alternate Member Kenneth Geer

Chairman Kelly Lamb Chairman Ammie Chittim Chairman Karen Parkinson

Alternate Member Rebecca Watford

**Excused** Ty Lamb

#### III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Mr. Godino and Mr. Geer were appointed as voting members.

#### IV. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Dave Schroeder Jr., resident was present to speak about issues that he feels the Commissions should consider getting further involved. Mr. Schroeder gave Fort Decatur history information and presented an idea to recognize the fort as a historical area with status.

- -Recognize Mount/Fort Decatur in the Plan of Conservation (POCD) as a historic resource with the long term goal of preserving the entire hill and site intact ultimately pursuing National Historic Site status.
- -Reintroducing historic district design guidelines into the zoning regulations and potentially involving the Historic District Commission in planning reviews within those districts.
- -Updating language in the POCD and Zoning regulations to better protect the historic character of the reinstated Gales Ferry/Ledyard Center Historic District and adjacent zoning areas.
- -Exploring public art initiatives to commemorate Ledyard's significant history as part of the 250 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Proposed ideas would be a statue of Steven Decatur for display in Gales Ferry and for Ledyard Center a statue of either John Ledyard the

Explorer or William Ledyard the Commander of Fort Griswold.

Ms. Parkinson said she supports Mr. Schroeder's ideas but spoke of her frustrations with preservation of the Spicer Ruins project. Mr. Schroeder said that during covid-19 many of the old Historic guidelines disappeared.

Councilor Barnes said that pages 50-53 of the POCD describes historic preservation.

Mr. Kelley thanked Mr. Schroeder for coming forward with his concerns and documentation and said the Commission would discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Kelley said he has been researching the National Register regarding Ledyard and Gales Ferry.

#### V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2025, as written.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Kenneth Geer SECONDER: Karen Parkinson

AYE 7 Kelley Godino Geer Lamb Chittim Parkinson Watford

**EXCUSED** 1 Lamb

## VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Bill Barnes.

William Barnes, Town Council Liaison said he did not have a report but added that this may be his last meeting since he believes that Chairman Lamb will be assigned as the new Liaison for the Commission.

#### VII. CHAIRMAN REPORT

1. General Report.

Nothing to present.

**2.** Financial Report.

No changes or need to review.

#### VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

#### IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee.

Mr. Godino said the crew has been working. Mr. Ganong helped with the status document to send to Mayor Allyn III. Mr. Godino said he is not sure if the PO has been issued for the storage structure.

# 2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

# Mr. Kelley's report:

The Lester House completed its 2025 open season by extending past the November 1, 2 weekend. We will close for regular tours until May, 2026. We have several interior projects planned while the house is closed.

As always, the house and barns are available for pre-arranged tours outside the regular season. We have been privileged to share with several other house museums and private individuals who are restoring or maintaining historic buildings.

Issues with the alarm system have been resolved.

Clarifications on a few quotes are being sought before plans are finalized.

Our partners at Ledyard Public Works have completed a major clean up along the exit drive. They have fully uncovered the stone wall along that drive, as well removed many invasive saplings and damaged trees. We greatly appreciate this long-standing partnership and the care that Public Works takes with the Lester House property.

A reminder that the Yuletide event returns on Sunday, December 7, from 1:00 to 4:00pm. The Ledyard Historical Society hosts, and carolers from Ledyard High School will perform. The Ledyard Garden Club will green the house on Saturday the 6th. We hope to see you all there.

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

Ms. Parkinson said she is still working on the Spicer Ruins, she is hoping to work with the Land Use Committee in December and submit the application to the State in January.

#### 4. Center School - Mr. Geer.

Mr. Geer said there is not much to report. Councilor Barnes asked about a structure near the school house, Mr. Geer answered that an outhouse is being built.

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

Ms. Lamb said that social media is slowing down due to the end of the season for both the Sawmill and the Nathan Lester House.

#### 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.

During the December meeting the Commission will need to vote on a new Chairperson as well as extend a few expiring positions.

Ms. Kelley said the Commission could use a Fiscal Agent to alleviate that responsibility from the Chairperson. Mr. Godino said he would consider that role.

Motion to CREATE a Fiscal Agent position for the Commission.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Douglas Kelley SECONDER: Kenneth Geer

AYE 7 Kelley Godino Geer Lamb Chittim Parkinson Watford

**EXCUSED** 1 Lamb

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

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