



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

### Meeting Minutes - Final

12 Van Tassel Drive  
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06339

#### Organizational Meeting

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Tuesday, August 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Council Chambers  
- Hybrid Format

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In-Person: Council Chambers - Town Hall Annex Building

**Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81324267639?  
pwd=QkZINnhEeEVWNzFSUUFxa2hGQTkwZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81324267639?pwd=QkZINnhEeEVWNzFSUUFxa2hGQTkwZz09)

**Or by Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 813 2426 7639; Passcode: 028493**

I. CALL TO ORDER (By Town Council Chairman)

The organizational meeting was called to order by Town Council Chairman Dombrowski at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Dombrowski welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission and members of the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town's Website - Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

II. ROLL CALL

<b>Present</b>	Commissioner Jessica Cobb Commissioner Loretta Kent Chairman Kenneth J. DiRico Commissioner Norma Sokolski Commissioner Margaret Anne Harding Commissioner Paula Crocker Commissioner Majorie Winslow Commissioner Lucrezia Finegan
<b>Absent</b>	Commissioner Charles Gallagher

II.

In addition the following were present:

Kevin Dombrowski, Town Council Chairman  
Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Liaison  
Scott Johnson, Jr. Director, Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission  
Carol Schneider, Resident  
Roxanne Maher, Administrative Assistant

III. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

1 MOTION to nominate and vote on Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission Officers:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Recording Secretary

Town Council Chairman Dombrowski called for nominations for Committee Officers:

Ms. Finegan nominated Mr. DiRicco for Chairman

Hearing no further nominations for Commission Chairman, by consensus, Town Council Chairman Dombrowski closed nominations.

- MOTION to elect Kenneth DiRico as Chairman for the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission.  
Moved by Ms. Finegan, seconded by Ms. Kent  
VOTE: 7 - 0 - Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED 7 - 0

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan, Committee Member

SECONDER: Loretta Kent, Committee Member

AYES: Cobb, Crocker, DiRicco, Finegan, Harding, Kent, Sokolski

ALTERNATE MEMBER: Winslow

ABSENT: Gallagher

Town Council Chairman Dombrowski congratulated Mr. DiRico for being elected to serve as Chairman by his peers, and he turned the meeting over to Commission Chairman DiRico.

Mr. DiRico thanked the Commission for their nomination and their support for him to serve as the Commission Chairman.

Chairman DiRico opened the floor for the election of a Vice-Chairman.

- MOTION to elect Jessica Cobb as Vice- Chairman for the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission.

Moved by Ms. Kent, seconded by Ms. Finegan  
VOTE: 7 - 0 - Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED 7 - 0  
MOVER: Loretta Kent, Committee Member  
SECONDER: Lucrezia Finegan, Committee Member  
AYES: Cobb, Crocker, DiRico, Finegan, Harding, Kent, Sokolski  
ALTERNATE MEMBER: Winslow  
ABSENT: Gallagher

Chairman DiRico opened the floor for the election of a Recording Secretary.

- MOTION to elect Paula Crocker as Recording Secretary for the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission.

Moved by Ms. Sokolski, seconded by Ms. Harding  
VOTE: 7 - 0 - Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED 7 - 0  
MOVER: Norma Sokolski, Committee Member  
SECONDER: Margaret Anne Harding, Committee Member  
AYES: Cobb, Crocker, DiRico, Finegan, Harding, Kent, Sokolski  
ALTERNATE MEMBER: Winslow  
ABSENT: Gallagher

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

- 2** MOTION to set the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission 2023 Regular Meeting date for the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Facility located at 12 Van Tassel Drive as noted below:

**Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission (3rd Tuesday, Van Tassel Drive, 7 p.m.)**

September 19                      October 17                      November 21                      December 19  
January 16, 2024.

Moved by Ms. Kent, seconded by Ms. Finegan  
Discussion: The Commission discussed possibly scheduling their meetings earlier in the evening. Based on work schedules and availability the Members agreed that 7:00 p.m. would work for all of them.

VOTE: 7 - 0 - Approved and so declared

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED  
**MOVER:** Loretta Kent  
**SECONDER:** Lucrezia Finegan

**AYE**                8    Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Winslow Finegan  
**ABSENT**           1    Gallagher

3. Review duties and responsibilities outlined in Ordinance #001-016 (rev. 1) “*An Ordinance Combining Parks And Recreation Commission and Senior Citizens Commission for the Town of Ledyard*”.

Chairman DiRico noted that the Commission’s governing Ordinance was distributed along with their Appointment Letters. He opened the floor for questions and/or comments regarding the role, responsibilities, and duties of the Commission.

Ms. Harding requested clarification regarding the terms outlined in Ordinance #001-016 (rev. 1). She noted the Ordinance called for some members to be appointed for one year, some members to be appointed for two years, and some members to be appointed for three years. But further down in the Ordinance it stated that members would be appointed for three years.

Town Council Chairman Dombrowski explained for the initial member appointments to the newly Combined Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission that the expiration of the terms was staggered so that all the members’ terms would not end at the same time. He stated as each member’s term ended that they would then be reappointed for a three-year term. He stated this appointment schedule would keep the terms staggered.

**RESULT:        COMPLETED**

4. Review Outstanding Items of Business from the former Parks & Recreation Commission and former Senior Citizens Commission.
- ***Door to Restroom*** - The Automated Door installation has been completed but does not latch correctly. Also, the handrail down the hallway has a rough edge and people have cut their hand when using the handrail. Public Works will be addressing these issues.
  - ***Weights for Silver Sneakers Exercise Class*** - Additional 1lb, 2lb, and 3lb weights have been ordered. Not sure when the weights will arrive. It was noted because there were not enough weights that some folks have been bringing their own weights to the exercise classes.
  - ***Meidal Privacy Screen*** on wheels - A Privacy Screen on wheels could be purchased for about \$150.00.
  - ***Community Garden***
    - ✓ Public Works was working to put a community garden in back of Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Building.

- ✓ Expect the Community Garden to be ready for planting next spring, 2024.

Commission Members agreed to discuss whether the Community Garden would be for just Senior Citizens or whether it would be available to all town residents.

- ***Hairdresser Cabinet*** - The Hairdresser has requested a cabinet to lock her things in. A cabinet from the Craft Room could be used. The Seniors may be looking for a new Hairdresser.
  - ✓ Hairdresser currently provided services on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Van Tassel Facility.
  - ✓ Hairdresser sets the prices for services and keeps 100% of the money.
  - ✓ Must have their own Insurance.
  - ✓ Currently the Hairdresser does not pay to rent/lease space at the Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Facility.
  - ✓ Hair Salon is inspected on a regular basis by Ledge Light Health District (LLHD).

Ms. Kent stated her daughter may be interested in providing Hairdressing/Barber services, noting that she had been providing services at Groton Regency Nursing Home. Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., stated that he would send Ms. Kent information regarding the Hairdresser services.

- ***Van Rides to the Farmers Market*** on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - ✓ Must be age 55 or older and/or disabled to be eligible Van Rides.
  - ✓ Riders must sign up for Van Rides.
  - ✓ Seniors are picked up at their house.
  - ✓ Farmers Market provides Senior Nutrition Vouchers, Seniors need to sign up for Vouchers.
  - ✓ Just began the Van Rides to Farmers Market and they had two riders.
- ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding*** - The Senior Citizens Facility has received approximately \$30,000 of ARPA funding. The Senior Citizens would like to use the ARPA Funding for the following initiatives:
  - ✓ Chairs - The folding chairs were falling apart and were dangerous/hazard. New higher chairs were needed for both the Silver Sneakers Exercise Room and the Dining Room. Although the Seniors would like the chairs to have some padding they do not want cloth to allow for the chairs to be easily cleaned. Chairman DiRico noted that the new chairs were a priority.
  - ✓ Convert the craft/storage room to an exercise room with the following:
    - Add rubber floor

- Additional Weights
- Elliptical Machine
- Peloton Machine
- Treadmill

Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., stated The federal guidelines require the ARPA funding to be obligated by the end of the 2024 calendar year; and spent (liquidated) by the end of the 2026 calendar year.

- ***Boy Scout Project - Skate Park***
  - ✓ A Boy Scout presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission a proposal to create a Skate Park in the Highlands area.
  - ✓ The Scout had three years to complete their project.
  - ✓ The Scout was currently fundraising for the Skate Park project; and would come back to the Commission once they had enough funding to create the project, which would involve concrete structures, etc..
  - ✓ Approvals - Both the Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission and the Town Council would need to approve the proposed Capital Improvement Project before the Scout could proceed with the Skate Park.

**RESULT:** CONTINUE

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Cobb noted that yesterday she tried Pickleball for the first time at the Gales Ferry Community Center Tennis Courts. She stated the program offered games for beginners, intermediate, and advanced Pickleball players. She stated Pickleball games were being held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for Seniors and on Tuesday and Thursday for all ages.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Cobb, seconded by Ms. Kent

VOTE:0 Approved and so declared.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth DiRico

Chairman

Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission

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

