



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman  
Mike Marelli

#### Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marelli at 6:30 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present** Vice Chair James Harwood  
Commissioner Dave Cohen  
Commissioner Kathleen Edgecomb  
Commissioner Roberta Levandoski  
Chairman Michael E. Marelli

**Excused** Commissioner Barbara Kil  
Commissioner Betsy Graham

Also in attendance were:

Eric Treaster  
Dave Schroeder  
Doug Kelley  
Karen Parkinson, Historic District Commission Chairperson

#### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2026, as written.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** James Harwood

**AYE** 5 Harwood Cohen Edgecomb Levandoski Marelli

**EXCUSED** 2 Kil Graham

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

#### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**1. Public Comments.**

Karen Parkinson, Historic District Commission Chairperson introduced Dave Schroeder, who gave a presentation on a proposal to get the Town to change the Gales Ferry Development District back to the Gales Ferry Design District. His group is looking for support from the Conservation Commission to re-establish the area as a Historic District Village, which will give the Town some tools to use when reviewing proposed developments. The group is meeting with Planning and Zoning Commission on May 14, 2026, for a preliminary discussion about its proposal and will come back to Conservation with more details.

**VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT****1. Town Council Liaison Report.**

No report.

**VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****1. Informational items.**

- A low hanging branch at Burton Park has been cut down, waiting for the Public Works Department to take away the dead wood. The 15-foot trunk is still standing but poses no danger. Chairman Marelli contacted H&H Landscaping, which cut down the branch and most of the tree at no charge.

- Chairman Marelli will attend the Ledyard Agricultural Commission meeting on April 21, 2026.

- 20 houses are being proposed for Silas Deane Highway which will include some open space that may connect to existing open space.

- The Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed is holding its 2026 Spring Fest May 2, 2026, at Coogan Farm in Mystic. The Commission will set up an informational table

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS****1. Property Walks.**

Mr. Cohen said he cleaned up trash at Glacier Park and suggested now is the time to improve the parking lot there. He will contact Bill Geer to look at the lot and make recommendations.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**2. Financial Reports.**

No change from last month. The Commission's general fund has \$2,489; White-Hall has \$16,714; and the Trail maintenance fund has \$14,116.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**3. Pollinator Pathways Project continued.**

No report.

**4. POCD**

The Town has updated the POCD over the next few years and the Commission will review its goals. Including promoting Townwide connectivity to open spaces, protecting water sources, advocating for riparian buffer and storm water regulations, raising the profile of open space, and other items that will be included in the updated POCD.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**5. Ledyard Trails Task Force.**

There was a discussion on how the Commission can contribute to the Ledyard Trails Task Force by linking trails, sharing workloads, creating greater public awareness and creating multi-use trails. Avalonia and the Historic District Commission are excited to be part of the Task Force.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**6. Mystic River Watershed Protection.**

No report.

**7. Sustainable CT Certification spreadsheet discussion.**

During the March meeting, Mr. Harwood asked the Commissioners to look at spread sheet he sent around and identify items the Commission has accomplished to earn points to get the Town certified as a sustainable municipality so it can participate in the Community Match Fun, which will provide up to \$6,000 in matching money for crowd-source funding projects. The Commissioners reviewed the spreadsheet and identified things that the Commission has accomplished which will earn points, including creating management plans for Burton and White-Hall properties, setting up informational tables at various events to educate public on conservation goals, etc. Commissioners are gathering info, including meeting minutes and other documentation.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**8. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.**

None.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The Commission will nominate Maggie Favretti for the 2026 Aquarion Environmental Award. The submission deadline is May 8, 2026. Ms. Edgecomb will write up submission and submit it to Aquarion.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** James Harwood

**AYE** 5 Harwood Cohen Edgecomb Levandoski Marelli

**EXCUSED** 2 Kil Graham

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