



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None present.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

None.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

Chairman Garstka said the annual membership fee for the Connecticut Farm Bureau is due, he asked the Commissioners if they would want to renew.

Motion to approve payment of \$200.00 to the Connecticut Farm Bureau for the annual enrollment fee.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Russell Holmberg

AYE 6 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 6 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval to recommend criteria for the leasing of the Clark Farm and for the property across from Rose Hill Road.

Chairman Garstka attended the last Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee meeting with Mr. Marelli. Permission was given to the Agricultural Commission to list the criteria for leasing the Clark Farm property. If approved, the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Commission will forward the criteria to the Town Council for approval. The main objective is to keep prime farmland in agricultural production.

Chairman Garstka asked the Commissioners to assist creating of a list of criteria.

Chairman Garstka proposed criteria:

- In lieu of a financial investment in a lease, the person responsible for maintaining the fields would be required to also maintain the stone walls and some of the additional fields that have been overtaken with invasive plant species.
- Open to Ledyard residents first.
- Minimal impact (reduce likelihood of lawsuits).
- Access to the Tri-town trail would be maintained.
- Potentially a five-year lease, to ensure that the investment in fertilizer, lime and equipment is returned.

Mr. Holmberg proposed criteria:

- Having a dollar value on the land might help to weed out certain individuals that are not ideal stewards of the land.
- If the lease is broken because the land is not maintained sufficiently, there could be quantitative/measurable goals for the lease to be upheld.
- Perhaps it should be explicit and leased only as a hay lease.
- Do other towns such as Lebanon have hay leases we can use as an example?

Before next meeting the Commissioners will plan to research hay leases from other local towns. Chairman Garstka said he would like to finalize the lease criteria during next meeting.

Ms. Parkinson suggested applying for state/grant funding to repair the low water crossing to

improve access to other fields.

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

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to APPROVE the Agricultural Commission 2026 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 6 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

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

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:44 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 6 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

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