



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Agricultural Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman  
Bruce Garstka

#### Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, July 18, 2023

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Garstka called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present** Community-at-Large Representative Michael E. Marelli  
Chairman-Farming Community Bruce Garstka  
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas  
Alternate Member Steve Martic  
Farming Community Russell Holmberg

**Excused** Alternate Member- Community-at-Large William Thorne  
Farming Community Allyson Angelini

Steve Martic was appointed as a voting member.

Also in attendance was Town Councilor Naomi Rodriguez.

#### III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

#### IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

None.

#### V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

#### VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting minutes from June 20, 2023, as written.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Russell Holmberg

**SECONDER:** Michael E. Marelli

**AYE** 5 Marelli Garstka Yuhas Martic Holmberg

**EXCUSED**    2    Thorne Angelini

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Assess what the Commission has already done and where to go in the future continued.

Chairman Garstka didn't think there needed to be any further discussion on what the Commission has already accomplished. He asked if there were any comments. Mr. Marelli commented that the Commission should still move forward even not knowing exactly what Farmers want in order to implement procedures and/or programs to have in place in case the need comes up in the future. Chairman Garstka agreed and said this will be discussed in the joint meeting in October.

**RESULT:**    DISCUSSED

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 that he was recently speaking with a Preston farmer who's farm just celebrated a centennial. This farmer reiterated what has been said by the Commission that the State is looking for large parcels of prime farmland ideally next to other farmland and Ledyard doesn't have that kind of land like Preston does. Chairman Garstka said for the Commission to save Ledyard farmland it would need to be done on the Town level. He added that education would be key for Farmers to understand how selling development rights works. He said this topic will be discussed during the October joint meeting. Mr. Marelli pointed out that open space/water shed acquisition doesn't require prime land or have size restrictions. He suggested the Commission visits [smartpreservation.net](http://smartpreservation.net).

Mr. Marelli asked if State Farm is agricultural. Chairman Garstka said it does have a deed restriction. The Commission discussed the possibility of promoting State Farm, maybe on the Town website. Councilor Rodriguez suggested that the Commission speaks with the Mayor and the Town Council about State Farm and added that the land is administered through the Town Council.

**RESULT:**    DISCUSSED

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:17 p.m.

A motion was made by Farming Community Holmberg, seconded by Community-at-Large Representative Marelli, that this be Approved and so declared. The motion carried by the

following vote:

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Russell Holmberg

**SECONDER:** Michael E. Marelli

**AYE** 5 Marelli Garstka Yuhas Martic Holmberg

**EXCUSED** 2 Thorne Angelini

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