



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Martic was appointed as a voting member.

Present Alternate Member Steve Martic
 Farming Community Bruce Garstka
 Farming Community Russell Holmberg
 Farming Community Michael E. Marelli

Excused Farming Community Allyson Angelini

Absent Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
 Farming Community William Thorne

Also in attendance:

Ty, Lamb, Town Council was present as the Agricultural Commission Liaison.

Jeff Islandburger, resident.

Karen Parkinson was present via Zoom.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

None.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 4 Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Angelini

ABSENT 2 Yuhas Thorne

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison report.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor introduced himself to the Commission as the newly appointed Liaison. He added that he is also the Liaison for the Historic District Commission which he used to be the Chairman for. Councilor Lamb said he noted in the minutes that the Commission would like to have the Liaison more active on the Commission and said he plans to attend all the Commission's meetings. Councilor Lamb noted that there are standing presentation bullets every two weeks on the Town Council meeting agenda for the Commission to present. Chairman Garstka said he has spoken before at the Town Council meetings.

Councilor Lamb reported that during the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee meeting Chairman Garstka presented criteria suggestions for the renewal of the Clark Farm agreement. Although the suggestions were accepted Councilor Lamb said he needs to find out what the next step is. Chairman Garstka said he met with Liz Burdick, Town Planner, and she said because it's a renewal not a new lease it may only need to go before Land Use, and she suggested meeting with Mayor Fred Allyn III. Chairman Garksta will meet with the Mayor to discuss a request for proposal to see how to proceed. Councilor Lamb suggested that the Commission reviews its ordinances to make the Commission a bit more proactive. Councilor Lamb also asked if the Commission ever considered coordinating a Co-Op between Farmers for food donations. Chairman Garstka said no, he felt that in these instances donations are made directly to the Food Pantry and a middleman was not necessary. Chairman Garstka thanked Councilor Lamb for attending the meeting and added that he believes that having the Liaison report on the agenda will be beneficial.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka reiterated what Councilor Lamb said regarding attending the Land Use

meeting to present Clark Farm criteria recommendations, he said it is moving forward. Mr. Holmberg asked if there was any interest in hay farming on the Clark Farm property. Chairman Garstka answered that two people have shown interest. Mr. Islandburger asked if the person who will sign the lease is required to live in Ledyard, Chairman Garstka answered no. Chairman Garstka said the lease would need to be long term (at least 5-years) if there is hay farming, anything shorter term would not be worth the investment.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka spoke with a realtor who told him that the recently passed State law encouraging development of affordable housing bypasses all zoning laws. He is concerned about how this will affect farmland. Mr. Holmberg said there has been a slowdown in sales of larger parcels because of the rise in road development costs. Chairman Garstka thinks the Town should be encouraging Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADU) when homes are built. There were some questions whether ADUs are permitted in Ledyard, Councilor Lamb said he will find some answers.

Chairman Garstka said he will schedule a joint meeting in April. He asked Councilor Lamb to mention the Commission's joint meeting to the Town Council and to ask Liaisons to let their Commission know about the meeting.

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 4 Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Angelini

ABSENT 2 Yuhas Thorne

After the meeting was adjourned Chairman Garstka said he wanted to open the meeting back up to see if Ms. Parkinson had anything to add. Ms. Parkinson said that she thinks the duties and functions of the Commission should be broader. She said that the Griswold Agricultural Commission has an amazing list of duties and functions and encouraged the Commission to review theirs.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:29 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 4 Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Angelini

ABSENT 2 Yuhas Thorne

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