

TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee ~ AGENDA ~

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION

Zoom Meeting Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86438812270?pwd=rcuK16C1HiKDEDdvA9pKrENxx40HIR.1

Meeting ID: 864 3881 2270

Passcode: 019865
Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES.
- IV. FISCAL REPORTS
 - 1. Fiscal Report.
- V. COMMITTEES
 - 1. Flags.
 - **2.** Adopters.
 - 3. Veterans.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024, as written.

<u>Attachments</u>: Cemetery minutes 9-10-24

2. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2025, as written.

Attachments: Cemetery minutes 2-11-25

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. ROW Right of Way continued.
- 2. Cemetery Book update.

- 3. Election of Officers-
 - Motion to ELECT William Vidal as Chairperson/Treasurer and Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren as Vice-Chairperson/Secretary.
- **4.** Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion and possible vote to change the Committee meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1693 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 1.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Fiscal Report.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1698 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 1.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Flags.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1694 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 2.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Adopters.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1695 Agenda Date: 4/8/2025 Agenda #: 3.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Veterans.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1448 Agenda Date: 4/8/2025 Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024, as written.

Background:

There was no quorum during the October 8, 2024, meeting therefore the minutes were not voted on. These minutes should have been voted on during the February 11, 2025, meeting but was missed. Vote will take place during the April 8, 2025, meeting.

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Vidal at 4:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Committee Member Martha Reynolds

Alternate Member Paul Krug

Committee Member William Vidal III

Committee Member Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Excused Alternate Member Vincent Godino

Absent Committee Member Kimlyn Marshall

Committee Member Jessica Staley

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting minutes from June 11, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds

SECONDER: Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

AYE 4 Reynolds Krug Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

V. FISCAL REPORT

1. Fiscal Report.

New Fiscal year, the opening balance is \$2000.00.

VI. COMMITTEES

1. Flags.

The Committee will need to purchase flags this year after an inventory is taken. Chairman Vidal said usually the Committee tries to have 700-720 flags on hand for flagging season. Ms. Reynolds has the flags and will take an inventory. The flags are placed at several cemeteries in Town. Flagging at the larger cemeteries is done as a group, the smaller cemeteries are done individually. The flags should have sleeves and a long post. Need to look at what fabric was ordered in the past.

Number of Veterans: Gallup Hill has 45 Lambtown Road has 46 Ledyard Center has 37 Maintown has 2.

Medallion inventory needs to be taken as well. Ms. Reynolds said there are only a few of the nice ones and about 15 of the plastic ones. Ms. Reynolds will be contacting Mr. Godino for information the vendor used and confirming the specific requirements requested by Mr. Krug.

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

Mr. Godino wasn't present for this meeting.

Chairman Vidal believes that the only cemetery without an adopter is Maintown. Mr. Godino may have someone who is interested in adopting. Ms. Reynolds said she was supposed to talk with Jason Mancini but hasn't yet. Ms. Lundgren has agreed to maintain the Main Town Cemetery near the end of Route 214 until another adopter can be found.

Chris Krol a representative from the Ledyard VFW post 4608 joined the meeting via Zoom at 4:23. He had a question on the Williams Williams Cemetery which the VFW upkeeps. He wanted to know if there is funding for upkeep since some of the fence posts are falling due to deterioration. The VFW propped some of the posts up with rocks for a temporary fix, but the posts need replacing. The VWF will do the maintenance but wanted to know if there is funding for the materials or if they're expected to pay for materials since they are the adopters. Chairman Vidal answered that first it needs to be determined if there is a trust associated with that cemetery. If there isn't a trust, then the Committee will find a resolution to this issue. Chairman Vidal took Mr. Krol's contact number and said he would let him know what he finds out. Mr. Krol thanked him for his time.

3. Veterans.

Ms. Reynolds said she was asked by Ms. Godino to clip Veteran's obituaries out of the newspaper, but she said that she doesn't regularly read the paper and there must be another way to accomplish this. Ms. Reynolds suggested asking the Sextons of the three main cemeteries to give a post card to families of Veterans to ask if they would want them to be represented. The Committee agreed on providing pre-addressed postcards that sextants may give to families if they'd like to have the Committee provide flags for their Veterans. Ms. Reynolds said she needs the Sexton contact for Hurlbutt. She added that she would also like the adopter contact for

Lambtown since there is a lot of Veterans there. Mrs. Reynolds will move forward with contacting the sextants of the town's major active cemeteries in order to receive updated information on Veteran graves.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ROW - Right of Way continued.

Ms. Lundgren asked to explain the Right of Way (ROW). Chairman Vidal said there are several cemeteries that the Commission doesn't have a legal right of way access to. For example, there is a small cemetery with no ROW on Route 117 near Sablewood Drive. Ms. Reynolds said the Christopher Avery Cemetery near Avery Hill Road and Oak Hill Trail has two large trees on the ending of the ROW. Upon closer inspection by Ms. Reynolds, it's speculated this may be intentional by the homeowner to deter vehicles from trespassing. Ms. Reynolds spoke to a man on the property who was very helpful and agreed to maintenance the area. The tree trunks are still present, and committee will continue to offer to help clear the path.

2. Cemetery Book update.

While the project is still ongoing, Chairman Vidal reported it is close to completion. He added that each page has been updated with locations of the monuments, headstones and name listings, maps. He said his last task is creating a full (fold out map). There is a Veteran index in the back of the book. GPS coordinates were also added. Once completed the book will be printed and information will be added to the Town website. Maintaining the book shouldn't be difficult since there are only four active cemeteries.

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Media interest.

Mrs. Lundgren suggested the creation of a social media page on Facebook so the general public may have easier access to the Committee and public events. If the Committee ever wants to host a cleanup it would be helpful to post the event on Facebook. The Committee could also post flagging events. Members agreed and Mrs. Lundgren will begin working on the page to then be approved by the Committee before publishing.

2. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

Ms. Reynolds has observed a newer stone located at Johnny Cake Hill Cemetery, possibly of a Veteran.

Ms. Reynolds, after assuming flag duty responsibilities, was given several medallions she noticed were not belonging to Ledyard. After much research and investigation, they were gratefully accepted by the Veterans Rally Point in Norwich, CT.

Ms. Lundgren suggested that Committee members exchange contact information to better communicate organize work parties, answer questions, share information, etc... Members agreed and will share their information via email.

Mr. Vidal was contacted by Robert Dean who located a misplaced gravestone and would like it returned to its correct resting place. The stone belongs to Ms. Hannah Scadaub. Through the man's research, he believes it should be placed in the Mashantucket Cemetery. Mr. Vidal and Mr. Godino will follow up with him and provide more information as the situation evolves.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 5:13 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds

SECONDER: Paul Krug

AYE 4 Reynolds Krug Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

The next Committee meeting is on October 8, 2024.

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741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1699 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 2.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2025, as written.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vidal at 4:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Alternate Member Vincent Godino

Committee Member Martha Reynolds

Chairman William Vidal III

Committee Member Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Excused Alternate Member Paul Krug

Absent Alternate Member Kimlyn Marshall

Committee Member Jessica Staley

Also in attendance:

Resident Jim Hagen, 14 Windward Lane.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Mr. Godino was appointed as a voting member.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds **SECONDER:** Vincent Godino

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

V. FISCAL REPORT

1. Fiscal Report.

Opening balance; \$2000.00. Veterans' flags have been purchased at a cost of \$817. The Committee discussed using the remaining funds for stone restoration and printing the updated

Ledyard CT Historic Cemetery Inscriptions book. Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren asked if fundraising may be possible for more expensive items such as Veteran medallions and cemetery maintenance. Mr. Godino noted a separate account would need to be created for donations and must be kept separate from the Town budget.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. COMMITTEES

1. Flags.

Ms. Reynolds has been diligently researching and compiling new lists of all the Veterans' graves within the active and inactive cemeteries. Flags have been purchased and will be distributed to committee members by Ms. Reynolds once she has completed creating their flagging assignments. Chairman Vidal has suggested updating the Town's official website annually to help keep track of new Veteran burials for future flag placement events. Mr. Godino stated he may have medallions available if they are needed during flag replacement. Ms. Reynolds will also hand out a diagram on proper flagging procedures.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

Mr. Godino has provided the Committee with a complete list of cemetery adopters. The Committee will assess the conditions of the cemeteries in the spring while replacing flags. Adopters will be contacted to determine if maintenance assistance is required. If so, the Committee will offer to coordinate a work party for cleanup or find a replacement if an adopter is no longer able to volunteer. The Bailey Cemetery needs an adopter. Chairman Vidal stated that while visiting the cemetery, he spoke to a nearby resident who showed interest in possibly helping to maintain it. No further information was given on the potential adopter, Chairman Vidal will follow up. Mr. Hagen, resident of Ledyard, has attended the meeting and graciously offered to help with cemeteries in need of maintenance.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Veterans.

Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren shared a finding at the Joseph Stanton cemetery. The grave of Mr. Harold Allan Williams, a Korean War Veteran, has a medallion and no flag and needs to be added to the list of Veterans.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ROW - Right of Way continued.

Right of Ways will be inspected during flag replacement.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Cemetery Book update.

Chairman Vidal has provided the committee with a sample printing of the updated cemetery book. The book includes color photos, updated maps, the physical state of the gravestones, and detailed indexes of Veterans and graves. Chairman Vidal believes initially printing 50 copies will be sufficient. He plans to donate several to the local libraries, historical societies, and adopters. Mr. Godino suggests using the remaining funds to pay for printing. Mr. Vidal III will continue researching printing costs and report back with cost estimates.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren has been working with the Ledyard Historical Society and Rediscovering History, Inc. to further research the graves of enslaved people, Cesar (Lymas) and Dinah, located within the Christopher Avery Cemetery. Mr. Hagen attended the meeting and provided a copy of his own research and shared knowledge on the subject. The Committee is supportive in exploring ways to memorialize Cesar and Dinah. Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren will move forward with exploring funding options to provide the cemetery with a marker to acknowledge the graves.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program.

Discussion and possible vote to submit application for grant.

Motion to APPROVE submittal of Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program application.

The Committee discussed the grant process and the need for extra funds to help with restoration of headstones and grounds maintenance. Mr. Godino expressed the desire to focus on restoring, up-righting, and cleaning stones. Removing dead trees is also a main concern for long term preservation.

Motion to APPROVE recommendation of Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program application to Town Council.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds SECONDER: Vincent Godino

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

2. Election of Officers-

Chairperson Vice-Chairperson

Secretary

Ms. Reynolds said that the Officers currently in place are doing a very good job.

Chairperson / Treasurer: Mr. William Vidal III

Vice-Chairperson / Secretary: Ms. Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Official votes will take place during the next meeting on April 8, 2025.

3. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

Chairman Vidal suggested moving the Committee meeting time from 4:00pm to 9:00am. The Committee will add the proposed schedule change to the next agenda on April 8, 2025.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular meeting at 5:53 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

SECONDER: Martha Reynolds

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

The next Committee meeting is on April 8, 2025.

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741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1691 Agenda Date: 4/8/2025 Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

ROW - Right of Way continued.

Background:

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1692 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 2.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Cemetery Book update.

Background:

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1700 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 3.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Election of Officers-Motion to ELECT William Vidal as Chairperson/Treasurer and Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren as Vice-Chairperson/Secretary.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1696 **Agenda Date:** 4/8/2025 **Agenda #:** 4.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1450 Agenda Date: 4/8/2025 Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Discussion and possible vote to change the Committee meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:



741 Colonel Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 25-1697 Agenda Date: 4/8/2025 Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Any Other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation: