



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Land Use Department

Memorandum:

To: Justin Debrodt, Chairman, Ledyard IWWC
From: Steve Masalin, P.E., Public Works Director/Town Engineer *sm*
Cc: Hannah Gienau, Ledyard WEO
Date: December 2, 2025
Re: Lambtown Road Ext Drainage Improvements (IWWC#25-19SITE)

The James Lamb Family Trust has raised several concerns from a posture of virtual unconditional opposition to this initiative concluding with a firm appeal to the Commission for denial of the Town's application. Irrespective of the individual nature of these objections, central to its opposition is a misunderstanding and associated misrepresentation of the nature and aims of the proposal.

Yet, irrespective of the alarming tone of its case, this remains a relatively mundane, low-risk drainage job. Rather than partnering in an initiative that is designed to preserve the very asset it asserts the Town will irreparably harm or alter, the Trust appears to have arrayed itself as an entrenched adversary to these efforts. As such, prospects are very dim of resolution of these differences in a timely and economic fashion.

The Trust has not demanded that the Town conduct these improvements and seems thus to be satisfied with the status quo. But to the extent that it feels there is a problem that needing proactive attention, we suggest that it fashions and offers its own proposal. This would be subject to the normal approval process and involve Town review and permitting at the front end. The Town would be willing to establish an appropriate legal framework that would allow for construction. At completion and acceptance, the Town would assume subsequent ongoing oversight and maintenance.

We cannot say when a low frequency storm event of sufficient magnitude to severely test the drainage outlet will occur. And though the temporary pipe repair seems to be holding, neither can we predict when it or another portion of the pipe will fail. But circumstances will eventually yield an emergency situation affecting the road, marsh, or both. This may better ground for the Town to proceed with appropriate and agreeable repairs.

In light of these things, the Town is withdrawing this application. I have conferred with the Mayor, and he has agreed with my assessment that this would be best.