



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

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.

Steve Martic was appointed as a voting member.

Bill Thorne joined the meeting late (via Zoom).

II. ROLL CALL

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

Excused Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Farming Community Russell Holmberg

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

None.

1. Comments of Commission Members.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular/Joint Meeting minutes from October 17, 2023, as written.

Mr. Thorne was not present for the minutes vote.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Steve Martic

AYE 4 Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 3 Angelini Holmberg Thorne

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of topics raised in the joint meeting.

Chairman Garstka invited John Vincent, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission (or a representative from the Commission) to join the meeting. Since no one attended Chairman Garstka will try again and ask a representative to join the December meeting.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

Mr. Marelli said that he viewed the video of the Economic Development Meeting and it was said that their Business Directory is almost complete, however he was not sure what is in the directory or how the information was gathered. It was also said that when businesses come and go the directory will be updated. Mr. Marelli is hoping that there would be an opportunity to add the Agricultural Commission.

Chairman Garstka spoke with Justin Dube, MIS Director regarding the Commission's website. Mr. Dube said the Commission needs to tell him what they are looking for and he can go from there. Ms. Yuhas suggested something similar to East Lyme's Agricultural page. Mr. Dube said he could do that once the Commission comes up with the information to plug into the page. Chairman Garstka said the Commission should focus on the website during the next Commission meeting. He added that it would be good to highlight places in Town such as Holmberg's Orchard and Maugle Sierra Vineyards and include links to their website for more information. Photos that can be changed every few months to keep it fresh was another suggestion.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss next Joint Meeting time frame.

Mr. Thorne suggested inviting the Farmers Market Committee to the next joint meeting, Chairman Garstka agreed.

2. Motion to APPROVE January 21, 2025, to supplement the AG 2024 calendar dates.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Steve Martic

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 4 Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 3 Angelini Holmberg Thorne

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

Chairman Garstka said there are two vacancies on the Farmers Market if the Commissioners know of anyone that is interested to contact the Mayor. Mr. Marelli added that there are three vacancies on the Conservation Commission (two regular members and one alternate).

Chairman Garstka also said the Agricultural Commission will need a new Liaison.

Mr. Thorne said that an ordinance is in the works called "Friends of the Market". The running of the market is labor intensive and having a group of people to draw on for assistance would be very helpful. "Friends of the Market" members would not have to reside in Ledyard. He said the Committee is at a Crossroads right now and they need more people to continue to exist. He invited Chairman Gartska to attend the next Farmer Market Committee meeting. Mr. Thorne will send Chairman Garstka the meeting information for the next meeting date.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Katie Yuhas

SECONDER: Steve Martic

AYE 5 Yuhas Martic Garstka Thorne Marelli

EXCUSED 2 Angelini Holmberg

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