



Chairman
Bruce Garstka

TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Regular/Joint Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Garstka called the Regular/Joint Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Farming Community Michael E. Marelli
Excused Farming Community William Thorne
Late Farming Community Russell Holmberg

Also in attendance:

Ty Lamb, representing the Board of Education and the Ledyard Historic District Commission.

Beth Ribe, representing the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission and The Planning and Zoning Commission.

Karen Parkinson representing the Tri-town Trail.

Mr. Martic was appointed as a Voting member.

III. JOINT DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

1. Agricultural Commission Joint Work Session.

Chairman Garstka gave an overview of farmers and the goal of the Agricultural Commission which is to keep farmland from development. He shared how important local food is to our Town.

Chairman Garstka also discussed the lease at Clark Farm which is ending next year. There is a 40-acre parcel near Preston Park that should also be utilized for agriculture. He shared that the Agricultural Commission is an advisory Commission and makes recommendations to the Town Council.

Chairman Garstka said that one of the interests among equestrian farms in Town was to have

accessory dwelling units for farm workers, which were accomplished for farms of a certain size.

Discussion was had about creating additional marketing opportunities for local farmers at Village Market or at the Town's Farmers' Market.

Discussion was had about community gardens and utilizing grant funding for projects related to agriculture at the Nathan Lester House property.

Ms. Parkinson suggested the Commission contributes to the America 250 project by sharing the history of farms back in 1776. She also suggested broadening the reach of the Commission.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None present.

V. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

Mr. Holmberg reported that an outside consultant is seeking feedback on the Route 12 development project. Holmberg's Orchard is an economic generator for the Route 12 corridor.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

VIII. CORESPONDANCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any other Old Business to come before the Commission.
None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any other New Business to come before the Commission.
Chairman Garstka is still visiting farms around Town. He visited a new stable on Pumpkin Hill Road and reported that it is doing well.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular/Joint Meeting at 7:23 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Steve Martic

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

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