



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

## Community Relations Committee

### ~ AGENDA ~

Chairman  
Kevin J. Dombrowski

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format**

Annex Meeting Room - Town Hall Annex Building

**Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84796496564?pwd=U1plaFlyYjZrMGIMRzRaQzIxMCtNZz09>**

**Or by Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; +Meeting ID: 847 9649 6564; Passcode: 716773**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS
- IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023

**Attachments:** [COMM REL-MIN-2023-02-15.pdf](#)

- VI. OLD BUSINESS
  - 1. Continued discussion regarding Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.
  - 2. Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.
    - Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.
    - Informational Presentation regarding Library Services
  - 3. Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “Informal Conversations in the Park” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

· Draft a schedule for Informational Forums/Gatherings.

4. Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.
5. Continued review of status regarding the progress of improvements at the Park on East Drive.
6. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1 Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee.

IV ADJOURNMENT

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



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 23-1315

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:**

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## MINUTES

**Minutes:**

MOTION to approve the Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023



**TOWN OF LEDYARD**  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
<http://www.ledyardct.org>  
Roxanne M. Maher  
860 464-3203

Chairman Kevin J. Dombrowski

HYBRID FORMAT  
MINUTES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGUALR MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

**DRAFT**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Paul at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers - Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Paul welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee and members of the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website – Granicus-Insite Meeting Portal.

- II. **ROLL CALL-**

| Attendee Name      | Title                    | Status  | Location  | Arrived   | Departed |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Gary Paul          | Committee Chairman       | Present | In-Person | 6:30 pm   | 7:38 pm  |
| John Marshall      | Town Councilor           | Present | In-Person | 6:30 pm   | 7:38 pm  |
| Bill Saums         | Town Council             | Present | In-Person | 6:30 p.m. | 7:38 pm  |
| Mary McGrattan     | Town Councilor           | Present | Remote    | 6:30 p.m. | 7:38 pm  |
| S. Naomi Rodriguez | Town Councilor           | Present | In-Person | 6:30 pm   | 7:38 pm  |
| Juliet Hodge       | Director of Land Use     | Present | In-Person | 6:30 pm   | 6:58 pm  |
| Roxanne Maher      | Administrative Assistant | Present | Remote    | 6:30 pm   | 7:38 pm  |

- III. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS** – None.

- IV. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – None.

- IV. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023  
Moved by Councilor Marshall, seconded by Councilor Saums

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared

- V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Black History Month 2023 Activity/Contest.**

Councilor Rodriguez provided an update regarding the Black History Month Essay and Poster Contest Program noting that students have begun to submit their entries. She stated

that she would be posting a reminder on social media and would also send a reminder to the School Principals about the February 22, 2023 Contest Deadline. She noted the Deadline was moved from February 20th to the 22<sup>nd</sup> because the schools were going to be closed over the long Presidents Day weekend.

Councilor Rodriguez continued by noting that the judges this year were as follows: A Board of Education Member, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple, Ledyard Police Department Sergeant McKinney, and herself. However, she stated because Ms. Whipple was going to be away on vacation that she has asked Ms. Whipple whether she could recommend another member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation who would be willing to step-in as a judge for her.

Councilor Marshall questioned whether any home-schooled students have submitted entries for the contest. Councilor Rodriguez stated that students were sending in their entries' however, she did not know if any were from home-schooled students. Councilor Paul suggested for next year that they ask the contestants to identify their grade and their school. Councilor Rodriguez stated that she did receive a comment from someone who said that they were happy to see that they were including all the students in entire town and not only the Ledyard public-school students.

Councilor Paul stated he spoke with Chairman Dombrowski about presenting the awards to the Black History Month Contest Winners at the Town Council's March 8, 2023 meeting and also about presenting some Black History facts at that meeting as well. He noted at the Community Relations Committee's January 18, 2023 that both Councilor Saums and Councilor Marshall mentioned some articles they found regarding local historical figures. He questioned how they wanted to the present the articles they found.

Councilor Saums stated that he posted two articles on the Ledyard-Gales Ferry Community Forum regarding Jordan Freeman and Lambo Latham. He stated both these men were credited with killing Major Montgomery; and he noted to have these slaves, who were freed by Colonel Ledyard, fighting by his side said a lot. He stated he thought the *Old Saybrook Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR) Article was the most meaningful and he read the following:

*“Why is our Chapter named after Jordan Freeman? On the sixth of September 1981 eighty plus men of all colors jointed together to unite in battle against the common enemy the British Army run by Benedict Arnold, Traitor to the Colonies. The small army was fairly decimated by the British but the few that survived were led by Colonel William Ledyard to Fort Griswold. By his side was his servant Jordan Freeman, who remained loyal to his formal owner to fight alongside Colonel Ledyard. Although all of the men in the fort found themselves faced with overwhelming odds and very small chance of success they were resolved in their belief in the cause. They armed themselves as best they could against the inevitable attack. With only a few small cannons, riffles with bayonets and spikes and a limited supply of ammunition, the Patriots were prepared to hold their ground. To that end and with that determination it was Jordan Freeman who speared and killed the leader of the attackers Major Montgomery, as he scaled the walls of the Fort. A*

*battle ensued which was inevitably won by the British but the taking of Fort Griswold was not the end of that battle, for the British were humiliated by the losses they suffered at the hands of so few many. In an act of retaliation, the British brutally slaughtered the surviving men in the Battle of Groton Heights, including Jordan Freeman. The strength in character of Jordan Freeman along with loyalty, determination, and resolve that he displayed throughout his life were the reasons he was selected by the Founders of this Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to be honored with the Jordan Freeman Chapter name.”*

Councilor Saums stated that history was often hard to discern noting that there was another version of this account of history.

*“Some historians believed that the British Officer that took Colonel Ledyard’s sword and thrust it thru his body, was the earlier flag bearer loyalist Capitan George Beckwith. Others claimed that it was Capitan Stephen Bromfield, who assumed command after and Major Montgomery was killed.”*

*“So too, accounts differ as to which American revenged Ledyard’s murder by killing the British Officer who killed the garrison bleeder. While some say it was Capitan Allyn, others claim it was an African former slave, Lambo Latham, who dealt the fatal blow. Some internet articles incorrectly state that Jordan Freeman had also killed the Officer who murdered his In all events, Capitan Allyn and Lambo Latham were soon among those who were slaughtered shortly thereafter.”*

Councilor Saums stated that there were several versions of this account. He also noted that the Twenty-ninth Regiment had a lot of men of color who were soldiers. He stated that he was continuing to research these historical accounts, noting that he was getting some help from a Ledyard Historian.

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee would not be meeting again before the Town Council’s March 8, 2023 meeting. Therefore, he questioned how Councilor Saums wanted to proceed with regard to the articles he mentioned, noting that he would like to see this work incorporated with the Awards for the Black History Month Contest. Councilor Saums stated that he would continue his research and would be prepared to read an article at the March 8, 2023 Town Council meeting.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 03/15/2023 6:30 p.m.**

2. Draft a Schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services, and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

The Committee discussed the following topics for Informational Forums:

- **Land Use Processes** – The Community Relations Committee discussed with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge the scheduling an Informational Forum in April or May, 2023 to present to residents the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, in an effort to help residents understand the complexities involved as they relate to Regulatory, State Statutes, and the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul noted that the Community Relations Committee has been discussing the format of the Informational Forum and that they would like to include a segment addressing *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) that would answer general/common land use questions such as: “*what the process was to build a deck, put in a swimming pool, put on an addition*”, etc. He went on to note that the Community Relations Committee would also like to include some FAQ about the approval process for commercial development as well. He stated as they did with the Public Works Informational Presentation, that they would like to post the Land Use Presentation video and FAQ Sheet on the town’s website, the meeting portal, and that it could also be linked to social media pages. Councilor Marshall noted by recording the Informational Forums that the Committee would be creating a video library that residents could view when they had questions.

The Committee and Land Use Director Juliet Hodge noted residents often ask questions such as why the town cannot attract a Trader Joes or Starbucks; or why they let the Dollar General Store open in Gales Ferry, noting the importance for residents to understand the land use process. They also discussed the limited availability of commercial property, low traffic count for marketing, proximity/location bordering the Thames River, etc.

The Group also discussed with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge the importance to publicize the Informational Forum and to ask people to submit questions in advance so that they can be addressed during the Informational Forum.

Councilor Paul suggested in preparation for the Land Use Informational Forum that they use the Community Forum to ask residents what land use questions they had.

The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation in April or May, 2023.

The Committee thanked Land Use Director Juliet Hodge for attending tonight’s meeting. Ms. Hodge left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

- **Fraud Presentation**– The Committee noted at their January 18, 2023 meeting they had discussed inviting Sergeant McKinney to give a Presentation regarding Fraud Prevention and Awareness at their March 16, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Saums noted that the Committee also discussed holding the Fraud Prevention and Awareness at the Senior Citizens Center. However, he stated because the presentation was already given at the Senior Citizens Center, and because the location was hard to get to, the Committee planned to look for another location.

Councilor McGrattan stated Our Lady of Lourdes Ladies Guild would be sponsoring a Fraud Prevention and Awareness Presentation on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. The Guest Speaker would be Ledyard Police Sergeant Michael McKinney.

The Committee agreed to reschedule the March 16, 2023 Fraud Awareness Presentation to sometime later in the year.

- **Library Services** – Councilor Paul stated at during their January 18, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee discussed doing something with the Library. He stated that they talked about hosting a booth at the Farmers’ Market that would feature the Library and the many community services that they provide. He went on to note that Councilor Saums suggested the Library hold an Open House at the same time the Community Relations Committee was hosting a booth at the Farmers Market. He stated the Community Relations Committee could provide some literature regarding the Library at their booth and then refer residents to stop by the Library Open House.

Councilor McGrattan, Library Commission Liaison, suggested the Committee Relations Committee host an Informational Forum at the Library, noting by bringing residents into the Library that they could see all the different services and programs the Library had to offer.

Councilor Rodriguez questioned whether the Library had the equipment, such as the Owl HQ system to live stream their meetings/presentations. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted that she had provided the information to purchase the Owl and related equipment to the Library but did not know if they had purchased the equipment. Councilor McGrattan stated the Library Commission meetings were currently being held in-person. Ms. Maher stated that perhaps there was some grant opportunities to help the Library purchase the Owl HQ system, noting that the Library offered a number of educational programs, which may qualify for some type of educational grants. She went on to state that the MIS Department has been hesitant to move the Owl HQ system between different facilities.

The Committee discussed featuring the Library at one of the Farmers' Market's this summer and to coordinate this with the Library by having an Open House for that same evening. Councilor Paul stated the Farmers’ Market ended at 7:00 p.m. and that perhaps they could go to the Library after the Farmers Market to host an Informal Gathering to bring awareness to the many things the Library had to offer. Councilor McGrattan noted that the Gales Ferry Library had a new Children’s Section; and therefore, she suggested that the Community Relations Committee also plan to hold an Informal Gathering at the Gales Ferry Library at another time.

The Committee reviewed the Farmers' Market schedule and noted that featuring the Library earlier in the Summer Market Season may help families become aware of the many programs the Library offered, including Children Programs, that they may like to bring their families to during the summer school vacation.

The Community Relations Committee reviewed the Farmers’ Market Summer Season Schedule as follows to try to coordinate the Programs that they plan to feature with the Farmers’ Market weekly scheduled themes as follows:

| <i>June 2023</i>                             | <i>July, 2023</i>                      | <i>August 2023</i>                     | <i>September 2023</i>                  |
|--|--|--|--|
| ✓ 7 <sup>th</sup> – “MEAT” You at the Market | ✓ 5 <sup>th</sup> Red, White and Berry | ✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bubbles & Blooms     | ✓ 6 <sup>th</sup> Simply Sweet         |
| ✓ 14 <sup>th</sup> All American Artisans     | ✓ 12 <sup>th</sup> Backyard BBQ        | ✓ 9 <sup>th</sup> Farm Fresh           | ✓ 13 <sup>th</sup> Hometown Heroes     |
| ✓ 21 <sup>st</sup> Summer Solstice           | ✓ 19 <sup>th</sup> Christmas in July   | ✓ 16 <sup>th</sup> Beach Blanket Bingo | ✓ 20 <sup>th</sup> “SEA” You Next Year |
| ✓ 28 <sup>th</sup> CREAM of the Crop         | ✓ 26 <sup>th</sup> “Bee” Your Best     | ✓ 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bark’ N Brew        |  |
|  |  | ✓ 30 <sup>th</sup> Back to School      |  |

Councilor Saums stated the Farmers Market was open from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and he stated that although a lot of people arrive at the Market early that some people pick-up dinner and go home, but that there was also a group of people who pick-up dinner and look for places to sit down and eat at the Farmers’ Market. Therefore, he stated that was the group of people who would most likely walk up to the Library after they eat. He suggested the Library host an Open House until 7:00 p.m. and then provide a Presentation starting at 7:00 p.m. after the Farmers’ Market was closed. He stated during the Community Relations Committee’s Booth that they could direct residents to the Library’s Open House and tell them about the scheduled 7:00 p.m. Presentation.

Councilor Paul stated he would contact Library Director Jennifer Smith to talk about these ideas and that he would report back at the Community Relations Committee’s March 15, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Paul continued by noting at their January 18, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee discussed developing a calendar with the events that they would like to feature during the upcoming months. He stated by having a schedule in place that it would allow them to plan and coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities.

The Committee discussed possibly cancelling some of their meetings to host a Booth at the Farmers Market this summer.

Councilor Paul stated that he would like to see the Community Relations Committee host booths that featured the following services and that he would begin to contact the Organizations to coordinate the events:

- Library Services
- Mental Health Awareness
- First Responders

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>RESULT: CONTINUED</b> | <b>Next Meeting: 03/15/2023 6:30 p.m.</b> |
|--------------------------|---|

3. Identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Councilor Paul stated by scheduling the programs and services the Committee would like to highlight at the Farmers’ Summer Market that it would enable them to target other topics that residents may be interested in talking about. He stated possibly bringing back something like a “*Whining Wednesday*” on the Ledyard-Gales Ferry Forum would help the Committee to solicit the types of topics that residents were interested in talking or learning about.

Councilor Saums stated that contacted the three Administrators of the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum and he noted that they indicated that they would be willing to field something like a “*Whining Wednesday*” and that they also suggested hosting a “*Thankful Thursday*”. He stated the Administrators also suggested the format be like a Poll that would be open from 5: 00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and that they would manually turn off the comment period at 8:00 p.m.

Councilor Marshall stated that he liked the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrator’s suggestions.

Councilor Paul reviewed examples of some open-ended type of questions presenting one question each week, that would keep the comments on topic such as:

1. Where would you like to see Electric Vehicle Charging Stations located in Ledyard?
2. Do you think roadside trash in Ledyard is excessive?
3. Would you be interested in participating in a town-wide Earth Day Clean-up?
4. Did you know that the “Bottle Bill” (Public Act No. 21-58 - An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management”) implemented a five-cent surcharge on any beverage container containing a spirit or liquor of fifty milliliters. Each quarter the surcharge fee is dispersed to the town in which the beverages were sold. Last quarter the Ledyard received \$13,027.06, which was for a total of 260,541 nip bottles that were sold during that quarter. The funds could only be used for the following purposes: (1) environmental measures intended to reduce the generation of solid waste; and (2) reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste, including, but not limited to, the hiring of a recycling coordinator, (3) the installation of storm drain filters designed to block solid waste and beverage container debris or (4) the purchase of a mechanical street sweeper, vacuum or broom that removes litter, including, but not limited to, such beverage containers and other debris from streets, sidewalks and abutting lawn and turf.
5. What town services would you like to know more about?

6. Would you be interested in participating in informal discussions regarding town issues?
7. What town issues would you like to discuss?
8. If you are a new Ledyard Resident why did you choose to move to Ledyard?
9. What would you like to see change in our community?
10. Do you use any of the town's parks, and if so, which parks do you like best and why?
11. Do you Love Ledyard and Why?

Councilor Saums stated the hope was to engage and obtain input from residents on topics that they would like to discuss. He noted the safety concerns at the Park on East Drive were brought to their attention by a resident. He stated with the Community Relations Committee's involvement and thru a concerted effort of several Town Departments that they were able to address the concerns. He stated the Community Relations Committee did a mailing to the residents in the area of the Park on East Drive and they received a good turnout at the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering, noting that it was a positive result and experience.

Councilor Saums suggested the Committee forward the list of questions to the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrators and ask them to consider putting one or two questions into a Poll per week.

Councilor Paul addressed how the Poll Question should be presented, questioning whether it should be phased: "*The Town Council's Community Relations Committee would like to know.....(Poll Question)*". The Committee agreed that presenting the Poll Question as Councilor Paul suggested would provide transparency and validation to residents.

Councilor Saums stated that he would work with the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrators to post these questions in the format of a Poll on *Whining Wednesday* and *Thankful Thursday*.

Councilor Paul stated this initiative was a great way to engage residents and for any of any of the town's leaders to get residents' temperature on specific issues/topics.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 03/15/2023 6:30 p.m.**

4. Joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Councilor Saums stated he reached out to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council Member Crystal Whipple today to try to coordinate an Informal Gathering between the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council, possibly outdoors this spring or summer.

Councilor Rodriguez noted that Councilor Saums would most likely not receive a response from Ms. Whipple right away because she was on vacation and would be traveling for the next couple of weeks. Councilor Saums stated that he would ask Ms. Whipple to forward his e-mail to schedule the Gathering to their Public Affairs Director.

Councilor Rodriguez went on to note that she sent invitations to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council inviting them to attend the February 19, 2023 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the Methodist Church. She suggested that it may be a good opportunity to connect with the MPTN - Tribal Council to try to schedule the Informal Gathering between the two Councils (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council).

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 03/15/2023 6:30 p.m.**

5. Review status update regarding the progress of improvements at the Park on East Drive.

Councilor Paul stated he did not have an update regarding the Park on East Drive. He stated that he would contact Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., to discuss including the Parks and Recreation Commission members in the next Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive.

Councilor Saums suggested that the interested residents come to a Community Relations Committee meeting to tell them how things were going at the Park rather than the Committee going to them. Councilor Paul stated Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., mentioned that some residents have attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. Councilor Saums stated that was great, noting at the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering that the Community Relations Committee recommended the residents attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings because the Park on East Drive was under the Parks and Recreation Commission's Administrative Control.

The Committee noted the last incident that occurred at the Park was in October, 2022 and that the last communication the Town Council saw was from one resident in December, 2022 which was a police matter.

Councilor Paul went on to note that during the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive that the Committee told the residents that they would host another Informal Gathering to follow-up on the actions that were taken to make safety and other improvements at the Park.

The Committee discussed possibly visiting all of the town's Parks.

The Community Relations Committee noted that they would like to hold the follow-up Informal Gathering in May, 2023.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 03/15/2023 6:30 p.m.**

6. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any new business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marshall, moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Paul.

VOTE: 3 – 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Paul  
Committee Chairman  
Community Relations Committee



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-103

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 1.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Continued discussion regarding Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 02/15/2023**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez provided an update regarding the Black History Month Essay and Poster Contest Program noting that students have begun to submit their entries. She stated that she would be posting a reminder on social media and would also send a reminder to the School Principals about the February 22, 2023 Contest Deadline. She noted the Deadline was moved from February 20th to the 22<sup>nd</sup> because the schools were going to be closed over the long Presidents Day weekend.

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*"So too, accounts differ as to which American revenged Ledyard's murder by killing the British Officer who killed the garrison bleeder. While some say it was Capitan Allyn, others claim it was an African former slave, Lambo Latham, who dealt the fatal blow. Some internet articles incorrectly state that Jordan Freeman had also killed the Officer who murdered his In all events, Capitan Allyn and Lambo Latham were soon among those who were slaughtered shortly thereafter."*

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Regiment had a lot of men of color who were soldiers. He stated that he was continuing to research these historical accounts, noting that he was getting some help from a Ledyard Historian.

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 01/18/2023**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez provided an update regarding the Black History Month Essay and Poster Contest Program as follows:

- Essay and Poster Contest
  - Essay Contest for the Middle School and High School students.
    - ✓ Middle School Grades 6 - 8
    - ✓ High School - Grades 9 - 12
  - Poster Contest for the Elementary School students.
    - ✓ Kindergarten - Grade 2
    - ✓ Grades 3 - 5
- Contest Duration: February 1 - 20, 2023
- Prizes were as follows:
  - ✓ Elementary Student would receive a gift card to the Book Store BAM.
  - ✓ Middle School and High School would receive a Cash Prize and a letter that they could mention on their College Application.

Councilor Rodriguez went on to note that this year they would like to include all students, whether they were home schooled, attend a private school; or tech-magnet school, noting that the Program would be open to all students in Ledyard. She stated the Contest Details for those not attending Ledyard Public Schools would need to be disseminated through social media.

Councilor Rodriguez noted that last year's High School Essay Contest Winner also received an Award and Scholarship from the Masons. She stated with presenting the Contest Winners their prizes at the Town Council meeting that you could see that the Students and their parents were very proud, as they should be for winning the contest, and she noted the essays and posters were remarkable.

Councilor Rodriguez went on to note that the judges this year were as follows: A Board of Education Member, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple, Ledyard Police Department Sergeant McKinney, and herself.

Councilor Marshall commented that during Black History Month everyone seemed to focus on the popular figures in history such as Martin Luther King or George Washington Carver. However, he stated there were a number of others who should also be recognized noting as an example the following:

- First African-American Senator - In 1870 Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African-American Senator and five years later, Blanche K. Bruce of Mississippi also took the oath of office.
- First African American Woman elected to the United States Congress was Shirley Anita Chisholm in 1968. Congresswoman Chisholm served for seven terms from 1969 to 1983 and represented New York's 12th Congressional District.
- First African-American that went into space was Guion (Guy) Bluford on August 30, 1983. He noted Mr. Bluford launched into a low Earth orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. He subsequently flew aboard three additional shuttle missions, logging a total of 688 hours in space.
- First African-American Woman that went to space was Mae Jemison in 1992. He noted Ms. Jemison was a US Astronaut, Doctor and Engineer. She was one of the member seven crew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Councilor Saums stated he agreed with Councilor Marshall's comments, and he suggested that they also try to present information regarding some local historical figures. He stated part of the Community Relations Committee's Charter was to inform and educate. He suggested they start to publicize what they have found through research noting as an example the following:

- Amasa Lawrence, was born in Thompson, Connecticut, around 1811. While little was known of his childhood or his parents, in 1833 he was enumerated in a private census of tribal members living on the reservation in what was then Groton, Connecticut, now known as Ledyard. The state appointed overseer Erastus Williams, described Amasa as 22 years old, of mixed black, white, and Indian ancestry, and the grandson of Esther Dick. As a young man Amasa took to the sea, as a crew member aboard the ship Manchester Packet, which departed from the New London, Connecticut on June 30, 1832 bound for the South Atlantic. On August 9, 1864, Amasa enlisted in the Union Army as a soldier in the 29th CT Volunteer Regiment. He was one of many Connecticut Indians to volunteer for service. He was mustered into service in Norwich on August 15, 1864. As a soldier in Company K he traveled with the rest of the 29th to be stationed outside of Petersburg. On September 26, 1879 Amasa died of dropsy in Ledyard, likely at his home on the reservation. His death record indicates he left behind a widow. Based on the death record, which indicates his age at death as 76, he was born in 1803. The bulk of the extent documentation supports a younger age at death and a birth date of c. 1811. The tribe paid for his burial, burial clothes, and the funeral service.

Council Saums went on to note the battle at Fort Griswold and he stated there were some amazing people in

history.

Councilor Paul stated that he would like to see the Black History Month Contest Winners be announced at a Town Council meeting as they did last year.

Action: Continued

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 12/21/2022**

File #: [22418](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest

Action: Continued

#### Minute Note:

Councilor Paul provided an update regarding the progress on the planning and organizing of the Black History Month Program. He stated that Councilor Rodriguez sent an e-mail to Board of Education Chairman Anthony Favry regarding the upcoming the Program.

The Committee discussed the Black History Month Program as follows:

- Essay and Poster Contest
  - Essay Contest for the Middle School and High School students.
  - Poster Contest for the Elementary School students.
- Pan-African Flag Raising Ceromony to show unity
  - Ceromony to take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
  - Councilor Paul would talk with Mayor Allyn, III about the Ceromony.
  - Councilor Saums would contact Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Councilmember Crystal Whipple for the MPTN interest in participating in the Ceromony
  - Councilor Rodriguez would be meeting with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Jean Jordan and Secretary Juliet Parker after the holidays to discuss the program and their interest to participate in the Program/Ceromony.

Action: Continued

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 11/16/2022**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez provided an update regarding the status of planning for the Black History Month 2023 Activity/Contest, and she noted the following:

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Organization - Councilor Rodriguez stated that she spoke with NAACP President Jean Jordan and Secretary Juliet Parker and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Councilor Crystal Whipple. She stated they have all agreed to help with the program. She stated they planned to meet after the holidays to discuss the program.
- Superintendent of Schools Jason Hartling - Councilor Rodriguez stated as a follow-up to the Community Relations Committee October 19, 2022 meeting that she spoke with Mr. Hartling about transitioning the Black History Month Essay and Poster Activities to the Board of Education. She noted that Mr. Hartling stated the Schools did not have the time or resources to take on the initiative.

Chairman Dombrowski suggested Councilor Rodriguez talk with the Board of Education about transitioning the Black History Month Essay and Poster Activities to them. Councilor Rodriguez stated that she would forward the suggestion to the Board of Education as well.

- February 1, 2023 Black History Month Ceremony - Councilor Rodriguez stated she spoke with Mayor Allyn, III about the town having a short ceremony for Black History Month. She stated that she would keep Mayor Allyn updated on the planning of the ceremony.

Councilor Paul stated he liked the idea of the Board of Education being involved with Black History Month Essay and Poster Activities. He stated he had hoped the Board of Education would agree to take the lead on the Black History Poster Activity and Essay Contest, noting that he believed the schools would be able to do more with the students by focusing additional programs on Black History Month with things like school assemblies, etc. He stated as the Community Relations Committee discussed at their October 19, 2022 meeting that perhaps the Essay Contest winner could read their essay at a Town Council meeting; and as they did last year, the winning posters could be displayed.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 10/19/2022**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez provided an update regarding the status of planning for the Black History Month 2023 Activity/Contest and she noted the following:

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Organization - Councilor Rodriguez stated that she spoke to some members of the NAACP in New London to discuss Ledyard's interest in having a Black History Month Activity. She stated in speaking to Juliet Parker, who was the NAACP Secretary, that Ms. Parker stated that the NAACP was willing to help Ledyard with their program. However, Ms. Parker asked that she submit their request in writing, noting that Ms. Parker provided her e-mail address.
- Superintendent of Schools Jason Hartling - Councilor Rodriguez stated that Mr. Hartling was pleased that one of the Contest Judges would be a Board of Education Member. She stated Mr. Hartling requested that the information regarding the Black History Month Activity and Essay Contest be provided to the Schools in November, because the Art Teachers needed time to plan for the projects and to include the initiative into schedules.
- Poster Contest - Councilor Rodriguez stated the Poster Contest for the elementary school students would remain the same as last year. She stated the variety of Black History Month posters the kids came up with were great.
- Essay Contest - Councilor Rodriguez stated Black History Month Essay Topic was going to be "*Black Resistance - How African Americans Have Fought Repression from America's Earliest Days*", noting that this was the national theme.

Councilor Rodriguez stated that she would send a draft of the 2023 Black History Month Activity and Poster Contest Information to the Community Relations Committee to review and to provide comments before she sent it off the Board of Education to be distributed to the Principals' Offices at each of the schools.

Councilor Paul stated with the Town Council being seated in December, 2021 and their Sub- Committees not holding their first regular meeting until January, 2022 that the Black History Month Program (February) came up quick last year. He stated he has put some thought into the program; and he questioned whether it would be a good idea to transition the Black History Month Activity over to the Board of Education, with the Town Council's Community Relations Committee acting in a supportive role. He noted as Councilor Rodriguez explained, with the need to involve Superintendent Hartling, the School Principals, and the Teachers that it may be more appropriate for the Board of Education to directly handle the essay and posters contest with Councilor Rodriguez's direction. He suggested that perhaps the Essay Contest winner could read their essay at a Town Council meeting; and as they did last year, the winning posters could be displayed. He stated by the Board of Education taking the lead on the Black History Activity and Essay Contest, that perhaps the schools would be able to do more with the students by focusing additional programs on Black History Month with thinks like school assemblies, etc.

Councilor Saums addressed Councilor Paul's suggestion to transition the Black History Month Activities to the Board of Education. He stated because the Board of Education had a lot on their plate, and a lot of competing initiatives, that perhaps Councilor Rodriguez could help with lining up judges, or with establishing the contest the guidelines, or with handling things that had specific timelines, etc.

Councilor Rodriguez stated she would bring Councilor Paul's and Councilor Saums' suggestions regarding Black History Month Activities to Superintendent Hartling. However, she stated the Essay Contest and Poster Contest was

only part of the Black History Month Activity, noting that she was also trying to figure out other ideas for Black History Month for the town.

Councilor Paul requested clarification, questioning whether the other ideas for the town that Councilor Rodriguez was trying to figure out would be separate from the essay contest and poster contest. Councilor Rodriguez stated Councilor Paul's understanding was correct. She stated in speaking with High School Chorus Director Ms. Cometa that the Chorus would be doing a concert for Martin Luther King Day (January 16, 2023). She stated that she had hoped that in early February that the High School Chorus could sing something at the Town Council meeting.

Councilor Saums stated he liked the idea that was suggested by Ms. Nicole Cruz-Glacken at the Community Relations Committee's August 17, 2022 meeting to fly the Pan African Flag in front of Town Hall. He stated that they would need to talk to the Mayor about the idea. Councilor Rodriguez suggested if the Town Hall raised the Pan African Flag that they could have a short program at that time. She stated last year New London had a short ceremony in which the Pan African Flag was raised by a military person, police officer and a town council member. She stated that she would provide more information at the Community Relations Committee November 16, 2022 meeting.

Councilor Paul stated that they discussed some good ideas this evening and that he would contact the Mayor regarding the Committee's ideas.

### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 9/21/2022**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.

**Action:** Continued

#### **Minute Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez stated that she has begun working on the details of the Black History Month 2023 Activity/Contest and she noted the following:

- The Contest would be an Essay and Poster Contest.
  - The activities would once again be on a volunteer basis.
  - The activities would include an essay contest for Ledyard Middle School and Ledyard High School, and a poster contest for the elementary schools.
- Judges would include the following:
  - Board of Education Representative - The BOE has requested a representative to serve as a judge
  - Police Sergeant Mike McKinney
  - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple
  - Community Relations Committee Chairman Councilor Paul
  - Councilor Rodriguez
- Would not have grant funding in-time for the 2023 Black History Month Program; and hope to have grant funding for the 2024 Black History Month Program.
- Timing of Contest to be held during the month of January with Contest Winners being announced in February.

The Committee suggested the 2023 Black History Month Contest:

- Provide a theme for educational purposes such as a segment focusing on a local person.
- Engage residents using social media. Perhaps the Judges could post their favorite posters and essays on-line and ask residents to weigh-in.
- Display last year's (2022) posters around town to recognize Black History Month and to raise awareness of Ledyard's Contest.

**Action:** Continued

### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 8/17/2022**

**File #:** [22418](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.

**Action:** Continued

#### **Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he would like the Committee to start working on preparations for next year's February, 2023 Black History Month Activity. He noted last year's (2022) program was the first Black History Activity the Community Relations Committee held and he commented that although they got off to a late start with rolling out the program that it was a success thanks to all the work Councilor Rodriguez did to get the project off the ground.

Councilor Saums noted that Councilor Rodriguez was interested in applying for Grant Funding to further support the Black History Month Program.

Ms. Nicole Cruz-Glacken, 5 Allyn Lane, Ledyard, suggested in the "Chat Box" that the town raise the Pan African Flag in front of Town Hall and have speakers during Black History Month.

**Action:** Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-105

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 2.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 01/18/2023**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

The Committee discussed the following topics for Informational Forums:

- Land Use Processes - Councilor Paul noted that the Land Use Department was currently short-staffed; and due to vacation schedules he has not had the opportunity to meet with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge to talk about the details of holding an Informational Forum to present to residents the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul went onto state that the Community Relations Committee had also discussed including a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet as part of the Presentation that would answer general land use questions, noting the FAQ Sheet could be posted on the town's website, the meeting portal, and be linked to social media pages.

The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation in April or May, 2023.

- **Fraud Presentation-** Sergeant McKinney gave a 30-minute presentation regarding Fraud at Saint David's Church in Gales Ferry. It was very informative, and the Committee discussed inviting Sergeant McKinney to give the Fraud Presentation at the Community Relations Committee's March 16, 2023 meeting. The Committee discussed the importance to get this type of information out to residents and especially to their Senior Citizens community.

Councilor Saums stated he just texted Sergeant McKinney about inviting him to give the Fraud Presentation at the Senior Citizens Center on March 16, 2023. He noted that Sergeant McKinney responded stating that the first Fraud Presentation he gave was at the Senior Citizens Center about a year ago. The Committee agreed to keep the Fraud Presentation on their schedule and to consider holding the event at a different location.

- **Library Services -** Councilor Paul stated rather than invite the Library to a Community Relations Committee meeting that the Committee work to do something with the Library. He suggested hosting a booth at the Farmers' Market that would feature the Library and the many community services that they provide. Councilor Saums suggested the Library host an Open House while the Community Relations Committee was hosting a booth at the Farmers Market. He stated they could provide some literature regarding the Library at their booth and then refer them to stop by the Library Open House.

Councilor Paul suggested at their February 15, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee develop a calendar with the events that they would like to feature during the upcoming months. He stated having a schedule in place would allow them to plan and coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities that they would like to feature.

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 12/21/2022**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

- Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul stated based on some of the new developments in Gales Ferry such as the Dollar General Store and the Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property, that residents have been questioning the Land Use process and approvals. He noted at their November 16, 2022 meeting the Community Relations Committee discussed working with the Land Use Departments to put together a presentation to help residents understand the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, etc. He noted the Informational Presentation that Public Works/Town Engineer Steve Masalin provided at the Committee's November 16, 2022 was awesome; and that it was unfortunate that it was not well attended. However, he stated the video was available on the town's website. He stated when residents raise questions regarding snowplowing or mailboxes and other Public Works matters that they could be directed to the video presentation on-line. He went on to state that the Committee could do something similar to assist the Land Use Departments get information to residents pertaining to the structure and operations of the Town's Land Use process.

The Community Relations Committee discussed the complexities of Land Use stating that it involved Regulatory, State Statutes, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc., noting that Land Use matters were not discretionary; an Application either met the Regulations or it did not meet the Regulations.

Councilor Saums suggested that the Land Use Informational Presentation be focused on the structure, process, and operation and that they not get into addressing address specific developments such as Dollar General Store and the Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property. He stated the Presentation should help residents understand the process to put an addition on their home, build a deck, put in a new driveway, subdivisions, as well the process for how commercial businesses, in general, were approved.

Councilor Paul stated the video of the Land Use Informational Presentation along with a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet to answer general land use questions could be posted on the town's website, the meeting portal, and it could also be linked to social media pages. He noted that the Land Use Department was currently short-staffed; and therefore, he suggested waiting until the after the holidays to begin working with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge on this initiative. The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation before May, 2023.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 11/16/2022**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he learned a lot from Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin's presentation this evening. He stated that he yearned for more residents to attend the Community Relations Committee's meetings and their Informational Forums because they provide a lot of great information regarding the services to the community.

Chairman Dombrowski noted at their November 7, 2022 meeting the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee discussed working with the Land Use Departments to put together a presentation to help residents understand the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, etc. He noted the complexities of Land Use stating that it involved Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc., He stated Land Use matters were not discretionary, explaining that an Application either met the Regulations or it did not meet the Regulations.

Councilor Paul stated in-light of some of new developments in Gales Ferry such as the Dollar General Store and the Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property, that residents have been questioning the Land Use process and approvals. He noted the LUPPW Committee discussed ways to provide information to residents pertaining to the structure and operations of the Town's Land Use process which included posting a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet and/or uploading short videos on the town's website which would answer land use questions and that could be linked to social media pages. He suggested the Community Relations Committee invite Land Use Director Juliet Hodge to give a presentation regarding the Land Use Departments in February or March, 2023.

Councilor Saums thanked the residents who attended tonight's meeting in-person at the Council Chambers to see the Public Works Department Presentation, noting that there were no residents in attendance on-line. He stated it was very informative and that he wished more residents could have seen the presentation.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 10/19/2022**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he spoke with Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin and that he was available to attend the Community Relations Committee November 16, 2022 meeting to provide a presentation/information regarding the services the Public Works Department provides to the town. He noted

the importance to get information out to residents pertaining to Winter Operations relative parking bans during snow events and other snow removal policies before the snow started to fall. He stated Ledyard's Public Works Department does a lot of in town and that this would be a good opportunity for residents to ask questions.

Councilor Saums stated he would prepare a flyer to send to MIS Director Regina Brulotte to create a link on the town's website that Councilors could share on their facebook pages.

### **Community Relations Committee Meeting 9/21/2022**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

#### **Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he spoke with Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin about scheduling a time to present information regarding the services the Public Works Department provides to the town. He noted the importance to get information out to residents pertaining to Winter Operations relative parking bans during snow events and other snow removal policies.

The Committee agreed to invite Public Works Director/Town Engineer Mr. Masalin to the Community Relations Committee November 16, 2022 meeting, noting that it was important to get this information out to residents before the snow started to fall.

Councilor Paul thanked Councilor Saums, Councilor Rodriguez other Councilors for their help in planning and staffing the Community Relations Committee table at the August 31, 2022 Farmers Market. He stated the "*Are You Ready for Winter*" event presented information regarding the many local and regional resources to help those struggling to manage mental health issues as well as assistance programs for those in-need. He stated in addition to the organizations that support mental health they also provided information regarding assistance programs which included home heating fuel, renters rebate, food pantry and many others.

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Committee Meeting: 8/17/2022**

**File #:** [22105](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to

residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee was currently scheduled to host a Booth at the August 31, 2022 Farmers' Market to provide information regarding Mental Health services along with a number of other services that are available to the public. He stated the Community Relations Committee would discuss preparations for the August 31, 2022 Booth in more detail later this evening (Old Business Item #6).

Councilor Paul went on to note that he spoke with Public Works Director Steve Masalin about scheduling a time to present information regarding the services the Public Works Department provides to the town. He noted the importance to get information out to residents pertaining to things such parking regulations during snow events as well as mailboxes.

**Action:** Continued



**File #:** 22-940

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:**

AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

- Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

**Background:**

At the LUPPW Committee’s October 3, 2022 they heard comments that residents were not sure how the land use process worked regarding permits; the approvals, and who decided what business could come into town.

The developments that were specifically mentioned was the Dollar General Store and the Cashman Project on Route 12, Gales Ferry. Residents questioned why the town would allow a Dollar General Store and that they did not try to facilitate other stores such as a *Trader Joes* or a similar type of business.

Because land use matters were outside of the Town Council’s purview, the Committee discussed helping the Land Use Commissions facilitate a discussion by holding an Informational Meeting to help residents learn about the structure and operations of how the town’s the Land Use processes worked.

Also, discussed was posting a *Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)* Sheet and uploading short videos on the town’s website, which would answer land use questions and could be linked to other social media pages.

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 02/15/2023:**

**File #:** [22940](#) Version: 1

**Type:** Land Use

**Title:**

Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Action: Continued

Minute Note:

- **Land Use Processes** - The Community Relations Committee discussed with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge the scheduling an Informational Forum in April or May, 2023 to present to residents the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, in an effort to help residents understand the complexities involved as they relate to Regulatory, State Statutes, and the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul noted that the Community Relations Committee has been discussing the format of the Informational Forum and that they would like to include a segment addressing *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) that would answer general/common land use questions such as: “*what the process was to build a deck, put in a swimming pool, put on an addition*”, etc. He went on to note that the Community Relations Committee would also like to include some FAQ about the approval process for commercial development as well. He stated as they did with the Public Works Informational Presentation, that they would like to post the Land Use Presentation video and FAQ Sheet on the town’s website, the meeting portal, and that it could also be linked to social media pages. Councilor Marshall noted by recording the Informational Forums that the Committee would be creating a video library that residents could view when they had questions.

The Committee and Land Use Director Juliet Hodge noted residents often ask questions such as why the town cannot attract a Trader Joes or Starbucks; or why they let the Dollar General Store open in Gales Ferry, noting the importance for residents to understand the land use process. They also discussed the limited availability of commercial property, low traffic count for marketing, proximity/location bordering the Thames River, etc.

The Group also discussed with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge the importance to publicize the Informational Forum and to ask people to submit questions in advance so that they can be addressed during the Informational Forum.

Councilor Paul suggested in preparation for the Land Use Informational Forum that they use the Community Forum to ask residents what land use questions they had.

The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation in April or May, 2023.

The Committee thanked Land Use Director Juliet Hodge for attending tonight’s meeting.  
Ms. Hodge left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 01/18/2023:**

File #: [22940](#) Version: 1

Type: Land Use

Title:

Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Action: Continued

**Minute Note:**

The Committee discussed the following topics for Informational Forums:

- Land Use Processes - Councilor Paul noted that the Land Use Department was currently short-staffed; and due to vacation schedules he has not had the opportunity to meet with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge to talk about the details of holding an Informational Forum to present to residents the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul went onto state that the Community Relations Committee had also discussed including a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet as part of the Presentation that would answer general land use questions, noting the FAQ Sheet could be posted on the town's website, the meeting portal, and be linked to social media pages.

The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation in April or May, 2023.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 12/21/2022:**

**File #:** [22940](#) Version: 1

**Type:** Land Use

**Title:**

Informational Presentation regarding the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul stated based on some of the new developments in Gales Ferry such as the Dollar General Store and the Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property, that residents have been questioning the Land Use process and approvals. He noted at their November 16, 2022 meeting the Community Relations Committee discussed working with the Land Use Departments to put together a presentation to help residents understand the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, etc. He noted the Informational Presentation that Public Works/Town Engineer Steve Masalin provided at the Committee's November 16, 2022 was awesome; and that it was unfortunate that it was not well attended. However, he stated the video was available on the town's website. He stated when residents raise questions regarding snowplowing or mailboxes and other Public Works matters that they could be directed to the video presentation on-line. He went on to state that the Committee could do something similar to assist the Land Use Departments get information to residents pertaining to the structure and operations of the Town's Land Use process.

The Community Relations Committee discussed the complexities of Land Use stating that it involved Regulatory, State Statutes, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc., noting that Land Use matters were not discretionary; an Application either met the Regulations or it did not meet the Regulations.

Councilor Saums suggested that the Land Use Informational Presentation be focused on the structure, process, and operation and that they not get into addressing address specific developments such as Dollar General Store and the

Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property. He stated the Presentation should help residents understand the process to put an addition on their home, build a deck, put in a new driveway, subdivisions, as well the process for how commercial businesses, in general, were approved.

Councilor Paul stated the video of the Land Use Informational Presentation along with a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet to answer general land use questions could be posted on the town's website, the meeting portal, and it could also be linked to social media pages. He noted that the Land Use Department was currently short-staffed; and therefore, he suggested waiting until the after the holidays to begin working with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge on this initiative. The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation before May, 2023.

[Action:](#) Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 23-1187

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:**

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

- Informational Presentation regarding Library Services

**Background:**

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**Department Comment/Recommendation:**  
(type text here)

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 02/15/2023:**

**File #:** [231187](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Informational Presentation regarding the Fraud

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

- **Library Services** - Councilor Paul stated at during their January 18, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee discussed doing something with the Library. He stated that they talked about hosting a booth at the Farmers' Market that would feature the Library and the many community services that they provide. He went on to note that Councilor Saums suggested the Library hold an Open House at the same time the Community Relations Committee was hosting a booth at the Farmers Market. He stated the Community Relations Committee could provide some literature regarding the Library at their booth and then refer residents to stop by the Library Open House.

Councilor McGrattan, Library Commission Liaison, suggested the Committee Relations Committee host an

Informational Forum at the Library, noting by bringing residents into the Library that they could see all the different services and programs the Library had to offer.

Councilor Rodriguez questioned whether the Library had the equipment, such as the Owl HQ system to live stream their meetings/presentations. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted that she had provided the information to purchase the Owl and related equipment to the Library but did not know if they had purchased the equipment. Councilor McGrattan stated the Library Commission meetings were currently being held in-person. Ms. Maher stated that perhaps there was some grant opportunities to help the Library purchase the Owl HQ system, noting that the Library offered a number of educational programs, which may qualify for some type of educational grants. She went on to state that the MIS Department has been hesitant to move the Owl HQ system between different facilities.

The Committee discussed featuring the Library at one of the Farmers' Market's this summer and to coordinate this with the Library by having an Open House for that same evening. Councilor Paul stated the Farmers' Market ended at 7:00 p.m. and that perhaps they could go to the Library after the Farmers Market to host an Informal Gathering to bring awareness to the many things the Library had to offer. Councilor McGrattan noted that the Gales Ferry Library had a new Children's Section; and therefore, she suggested that the Community Relations Committee also plan to hold an Informal Gathering at the Gales Ferry Library at another time.

The Committee reviewed the Farmers' Market schedule and noted that featuring the Library earlier in the Summer Market Season may help families become aware of the many programs the Library offered, including Children Programs, that they may like to bring their families to during the summer school vacation.

The Community Relations Committee reviewed the Farmers' Market Summer Season Schedule as follows to try to coordinate the Programs that they plan to feature with the Farmers' Market weekly scheduled themes as follows:

| <i>June 2023</i>                             | <i>July, 2023</i>                      | <i>August 2023</i>                     | <i>September 2023</i>                  |
|--|--|--|--|
| ✓ 7 <sup>th</sup> - "MEAT" You at the Market | ✓ 5 <sup>th</sup> Red, White and Berry | ✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bubbles & Blooms     | ✓ 6 <sup>th</sup> Simply Sweet         |
| ✓ 14 <sup>th</sup> All American Artisans     | ✓ 12 <sup>th</sup> Backyard BBQ        | ✓ 9 <sup>th</sup> Farm Fresh           | ✓ 13 <sup>th</sup> Hometown Heroes     |
| ✓ 21 <sup>st</sup> Summer Solstice           | ✓ 19 <sup>th</sup> Christmas in July   | ✓ 16 <sup>th</sup> Beach Blanket Bingo | ✓ 20 <sup>th</sup> "SEA" You Next Year |
| ✓ 28 <sup>th</sup> CREAM of the Crop         | ✓ 26 <sup>th</sup> "Bee" Your Best     | ✓ 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bark' N Brew        |  |
|  |  | ✓ 30 <sup>th</sup> Back to School      |  |

Councilor Saums stated the Farmers Market was open from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and he stated that although a lot of people arrive at the Market early that some people pick-up dinner and go home, but that there was also a group of people who pick-up dinner and look for places to sit down and eat at the Farmers' Market. Therefore, he stated that was the group of people who would most likely walk up to the Library after they eat. He suggested the Library host an Open House until 7:00 p.m. and then provide a Presentation starting at 7:00 p.m. after the Farmers' Market was closed. He stated during the Community Relations Committee's Booth that they could direct residents to the Library's Open House and tell them about the scheduled 7:00 p.m. Presentation.

Councilor Paul stated he would contact Library Director Jennifer Smith to talk about these ideas and that he would report back at the Community Relations Committee's March 15, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Paul continued by noting at their January 18, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee discussed developing a calendar with the events that they would like to feature during the upcoming months. He stated by having a schedule in place that it would allow them to plan and coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities.

The Committee discussed possibly cancelling some of their meetings to host a Booth at the Farmers Market this summer.

Councilor Paul stated that he would like to see the Community Relations Committee host booths that featured the following services and that he would begin to contact the Organizations to coordinate the events:

- Library Services
- Mental Health Awareness
- First Responders

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 01/18/2023:**

**File #:** [231187](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Informational Presentation regarding the Fraud

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

- Library Services - Councilor Paul stated rather than invite the Library to a Community Relations Committee meeting that the Committee work to do something with the Library. He suggested hosting a booth at the Farmers' Market that would feature the Library and the many community services that they provide. Councilor Saums suggested the Library host an Open House while the Community Relations Committee was hosting a booth at the Farmers Market. He stated they could provide some literature regarding the Library at their booth and then refer them to stop by the Library Open House.

Councilor Paul suggested at their February 15, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee develop a calendar with the events that they would like to feature during the upcoming months. He stated having a schedule in

place would allow them to plan and coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities that they would like to feature.

[Action:](#) Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-106

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 3.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 02/15/2023**

**File #:** [22106](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated by scheduling the programs and services the Committee would like to highlight at the Farmers’ Summer Market that it would enable them to target other topics that residents may be interested in talking about. He stated possibly bringing back something like a “*Whining Wednesday*” on the Ledyard-Gales Ferry Forum would help the Committee to solicit the types of topics that residents were interested in talking or learning about.

Councilor Saums stated that contacted the three Administrators of the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum and he noted

that they indicated that they would be willing to field something like a “*Whining Wednesday*” and that they also suggested hosting a “*Thankful Thursday*”. He stated the Administrators also suggested the format be like a Poll that would be open from 5: 00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and that they would manually turn off the comment period at 8:00 p.m.

Councilor Marshall stated that he liked the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrator’s suggestions.

Councilor Paul reviewed examples of some open-ended type of questions presenting one question each week, that would keep the comments on topic such as:

1. Where would you like to see Electric Vehicle Charging Stations located in Ledyard?
2. Do you think roadside trash in Ledyard is excessive?
3. Would you be interested in participating in a town-wide Earth Day Clean-up?
4. Did you know that the “Bottle Bill” (Public Act No. 21-58 - An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management”) implemented a five-cent surcharge on any beverage container containing a spirit or liquor of fifty milliliters. Each quarter the surcharge fee is dispersed to the town in which the beverages were sold. Last quarter the Ledyard received \$13,027.06, which was for a total of 260,541 nip bottles that were sold during that quarter. The funds could only be used for the following purposes: (1) environmental measures intended to reduce the generation of solid waste; and (2) reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste, including, but not limited to, the hiring of a recycling coordinator, (3) the installation of storm drain filters designed to block solid waste and beverage container debris or (4) the purchase of a mechanical street sweeper, vacuum or broom that removes litter, including, but not limited to, such beverage containers and other debris from streets, sidewalks and abutting lawn and turf.
5. What town services would you like to know more about?
6. Would you be interested in participating in informal discussions regarding town issues?
7. What town issues would you like to discuss?
8. If you are a new Ledyard Resident why did you choose to move to Ledyard?
9. What would you like to see change in our community?
10. Do you use any of the town’s parks, and if so, which parks do you like best and why?
11. Do you Love Ledyard and Why?

Councilor Saums stated the hope was to engage and obtain input from residents on topics that they would like to discuss. He noted the safety concerns at the Park on East Drive were brought to their attention by a resident. He stated with the Community Relations Committee’s involvement and thru a concerted effort of several Town Departments that they were able to address the concerns. He stated the Community Relations Committee did a

mailing to the residents in the area of the Park on East Drive and they received a good turnout at the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering, noting that it was a positive result and experience.

Councilor Saums suggested the Committee forward the list of questions to the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrators and ask them to consider putting one or two questions into a Poll per week.

Councilor Paul addressed how the Poll Question should be presented, questioning whether it should be phased: “*The Town Council’s Community Relations Committee would like to know.....(Poll Question)*”. The Committee agreed that presenting the Poll Question as Councilor Paul suggested would provide transparency and validation to residents.

Councilor Saums stated that he would work with the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum Administrators to post these questions in the format of a Poll on *Whining Wednesday* and *Thankful Thursday*.

Councilor Paul stated this initiative was a great way to engage residents and for any of any of the town’s leaders to get residents’ temperature on specific issues/topics.

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Committee Meeting 01/18/2023**

**File #:** [22106](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul noted at their December 21, 2022 meeting the Committee discussed launching something like a “*Whiney Wednesday*” on the Ledyard-Gales Ferry Forum to solicit topics that residents were interested in talking or learning about.

Councilor Saums stated that they would need to talk to the Forum’s Administrators to see if they would be willing and able to field something that a *Whiney Wednesday*.

The Committee discussed crafting a general type of open-ended question to post on the Forum to engage residents and to learn about the topics regarding Ledyard that residents were interested in talking and learning about.

The Committee noted the Informal Gathering they held at the Park on East Drive on July 20, 2022 went well; and based on the residents feedback that some great improvements have been made to the Park (Christy Hill Park).

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 12/21/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul suggested the Community Relations Committee develop a list of the types of programs they would like to inform residents about and then decide on a schedule of when they would like to present them. He stated having a schedule in place would allow them to coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities that they would like to feature.

The Committee discussed the success they had at the Farmers Market last summer and noted that the following topics for consideration the upcoming summer Market:

- The Brian Dagle Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- First Responders “Heroes” Police and Fire Departments
- ✓ Do a staged demonstrations such as the rescue of the man in the abandoned well
- Volunteer Table to talk to residents about how to get involved in their community and their local government.

Councilor Paul also noted that the Committee could host events at different town sites to expose residents the many great town-owned properties that were available to the public, and to engage with residents who may be already visiting the site such as:

- Up-Down Sawmill - The mill operated in the fall and would be a good opportunity to talk with residents after the Sawmill demonstration.

The Committee also discussed ways to obtain input from residents on issues of concern.

Councilor Saums noted the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Forum was a great opportunity to obtain feedback from residents. He noted at one time the Forum had a “*Whiney Wednesday*”.

The Committee agreed to launch something like a “*Whiney Wednesday*” on the Ledyard-Gales Ferry Forum in January, 2023.

Action: Continued

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 11/16/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he learned a lot from Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin’s presentation this evening. He stated that he yearned for more residents to attend the Community Relations Committee’s meetings and their Informational Forums because they provide a lot of great information regarding the services to the community.

Chairman Dombrowski noted at their November 7, 2022 meeting the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee discussed working with the Land Use Departments to put together a presentation to help residents understand the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, etc. He noted the complexities of Land Use stating that it involved Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc., He stated Land Use matters were not discretionary, explaining that an Application either met the Regulations or it did not meet the Regulations.

Councilor Paul stated in-light of some of new developments in Gales Ferry such as the Dollar General Store and the Cashman Marine Dredging at the former Dow Chemical property, that residents have been questioning the Land Use process and approvals. He noted the LUPPW Committee discussed ways to provide information to residents pertaining to the structure and operations of the Town’s Land Use process which included posting a *Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)* Sheet and/or uploading short videos on the town’s website which would answer land use questions and that could be linked to social media pages. He suggested the Community Relations Committee invite Land Use Director Juliet Hodge to give a presentation regarding the Land Use Departments in February or March, 2023.

Councilor Saums thanked the residents who attended tonight’s meeting in-person at the Council Chambers to see the Public Works Department Presentation, noting that there were no residents in attendance on-line. He stated it was very informative and that he wished more residents could have seen the presentation.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 10/19/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal*

*Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he spoke with Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin and that he was available to attend the Community Relations Committee November 16, 2022 meeting to provide a presentation/information regarding the services the Public Works Department provides to the town. He noted the importance to get information out to residents pertaining to Winter Operations relative parking bans during snow events and other snow removal policies before the snow started to fall. He stated Ledyard’s Public Works Department does a lot of in town and that this would be a good opportunity for residents to ask questions.

Councilor Saums stated he would prepare a flyer to send to MIS Director Regina Brulotte to create a link on the town’s website that Councilors could share on their facebook pages.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 9/21/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

Councilor Paul stated as they were moving into the winter months that they would put conversations in the park off until the spring. Councilor Saums stated he agreed, noting with the shorter daylight hours and colder weather that it would be difficult to gather people outside.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 9/21/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Saums stated the Community Forum Page was a great way to obtain ideas and feedback from residents. He stated a few years ago, when Ledyard Center School was sold, the Ledyard Fair was looking for ideas about what they should do. He stated the Ledyard Fair received over 500 comments from residents on the Community Forum, noting that there was a lot of interest in a Food Truck Fair. He stated the Parks & Recreation Commission held a Food Truck Fair at the Town Green on May 21, 2022.

Councilor Saums suggested the Community Relations Committee contact the Administrator of the Community Forum to post something to solicit topics or concerns that residents were interested in talking or learning about.

Councilor Saums stated the Community Forum Page was a great way to obtain ideas and feedback from residents. He stated a few years ago, when Ledyard Center School was sold, the Ledyard Fair was looking for ideas about what they should do. He stated the Ledyard Fair received over 500 comments from residents on the Community Forum, noting that there was a lot of interest in a Food Truck Fair. He stated the Parks & Recreation Commission held a Food Truck Fair at the Town Green on May 21, 2022.

Councilor Saums suggested the Community Relations Committee contact the Administrator of the Community Forum to post something to solicit topics or concerns that residents were interested in talking or learning about.

The Committee noted the Food Truck Fair was a great idea, noting that because so much was done in Ledyard Center that they would like to see an event such as a Food Truck Fair be held Gales Ferry. The Committee noted that the Sweet Hill Farm would be a great location for a Food Truck Fair. Councilor Paul noted that Economic Development Commission

Member Jessica Buhle did a great job in planning the *Regatta Day Festival* in June, 2022, noting that they used the Sweet Hill Farm and it was a great venue.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 8/17/2022**

File #: [22106](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

The Community Relations Committee discussed the following potential venues to engage residents about issues that are of concern to the Community.

- Nathan Lester House
- Up-Down Sawmill - The mill operated in the fall and would be a good opportunity to talk with residents after the Sawmill demonstration.

Councilor Saums commented on the good participation the Community Relations Committee received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive. He stated that he believed the good turnout was because they had a topic for the discussion, noting that residents previously brought concerns regarding safety issues at the Park to the town's attention. He also noted that letters were sent to the residents in the area of Park; and that the letters were followed-up with a mailing of flyers the week before the event.

Councilor Saums suggested in working to plan/schedule future Informal Conversations to engage residents that they identify the subject matter that would be the topic of conversation.

**Action:** Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-941

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:**

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

- Draft a schedule for Informational Forums/Gatherings.

**Background:**

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**  
(type text here)

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 1/18/2023:**

**File #:** [22941](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion - Agenda Item

**Title:** Draft a schedule for Informational Forums/Gatherings.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

The Committee discussed the following topics for Informational Forums:

- Land Use Processes - Councilor Paul noted that the Land Use Department was currently short-staffed; and due to vacation schedules he has not had the opportunity to meet with Land Use Director Juliet Hodge to talk about the details of holding an Informational Forum to present to residents the Land Use processes relative to the approval of applications, to help residents understand the complexities involved relative to Regulatory, the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), etc.

Councilor Paul went onto state that the Community Relations Committee had also discussed including a *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) Sheet as part of the Presentation that would answer general land use questions, noting the FAQ Sheet could be posted on the town's website, the meeting portal, and be linked to social media pages.

The Committee agreed that they would like to provide the Land Use Informational Presentation in April or May, 2023.

- Fraud Presentation- Sergeant McKinney gave a 30-minute presentation regarding Fraud at Saint David's Church in Gales Ferry. It was very informative, and the Committee discussed inviting Sergeant McKinney to give the Fraud Presentation at the Community Relations Committee's March 16, 2023 meeting. The Committee discussed the importance to get this type of information out to residents and especially to their Senior Citizens community.

Councilor Saums stated he just texted Sergeant McKinney about inviting him to give the Fraud Presentation at the Senior Citizens Center on March 16, 2023. He noted that Sergeant McKinney responded stating that the first Fraud Presentation he gave was at the Senior Citizens Center about a year ago. The Committee agreed to keep the Fraud Presentation on their schedule and to consider holding the event at a different location.

- Library Services - Councilor Paul stated rather than invite the Library to a Community Relations Committee meeting that the Committee work to do something with the Library. He suggested hosting a booth at the Farmers' Market that would feature the Library and the many community services that they provide. Councilor Saums suggested the Library host an Open House while the Community Relations Committee was hosting a booth at the Farmers Market. He stated they could provide some literature regarding the Library at their booth and then refer them to stop by the Library Open House.

Councilor Paul suggested at their February 15, 2023 meeting that the Community Relations Committee develop a calendar with the events that they would like to feature during the upcoming months. He stated having a schedule in place would allow them to plan and coordinate with other departments/organizations/entities that they would like to feature.

[Action:](#) Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-107

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 4.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Background:**

During the meetings the previous Community Relations Committee had with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council they had good participation from both sides, and they were good meetings.

Councilor Saums and Councilor Rodriguez reached out to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple on March 11, 2022 and they discussed the following:

- Scheduling informal get togethers between the Community Relations Committee and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council similar to the meetings the former Community Relations Committee had with the MPTN (9/24/2020) at which they discussed the Police, Food Pantry and other issues. He noted that they discussed a goal of having at least two per year. He noted that they received some feedback from Ms. Whipple on how the Tribal Council felt things were going on these matters.
- Town Council attending the MPTN Council Swearing-In Ceremony - Councilor Rodriguez noted because of the Covid -19 pandemic gathering restrictions the Town Council and Mayor were not invited this past year.
- Organizing some informal activities at the Pequot Museum, between the Community Relations Committee and some members of Tribal Council. Ms. Whipple would be getting some potential dates.
- Having some informal activities between the Community Relations Committee and some members of Tribal Council over a meal, because sharing a meal stimulates community.

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Committee Meeting 02/15/2023**

**File #:** [22107](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Action:** Continued

Councilor Saums stated he reached out to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council Member Crystal Whipple today to try to coordinate an Informal Gathering between the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council, possibly outdoors this spring or summer.

Councilor Rodriguez noted that Councilor Saums would most likely not receive a response from Ms. Whipple right away because she was on vacation and would be traveling for the next couple of weeks. Councilor Saums stated that he would ask Ms. Whipple to forward his e-mail to schedule the Gathering to their Public Affairs Director.

Councilor Rodriguez went on to note that she sent invitations to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council inviting them to attend the February 19, 2023 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the Methodist Church. She suggested that it may be a good opportunity to connect with the MPTN - Tribal Council to try to schedule the Informal Gathering between the two Councils (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council).

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Committee Meeting 01/18/2023**

**File #:** [22107](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Action:** Continued

#### **Minute Note:**

Councilor Saums stated he would contact Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council Member Crystal Whipple to try to coordinate an Informal Gathering between the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 12/21/2022**

File #: [22107](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Saums stated he would contact Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council Member Crystal Whipple to try to coordinate an Informal Gathering between the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and the Town Council.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 11/16/2022**

File #: [22107](#) Version: 1

Type: General Discussion

Title: Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

Action: Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Saums stated he did not have an update, noting that it was unfortunate that the previously scheduled had to be cancelled due to illness. He stated that he would continue to work with MPTN Council Member Crystal Whipple to discuss possible dates to reschedule their Informal Gathering.

Councilor Paul stated it was great to see all of the area First Responders from Ledyard, Gales Ferry and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation come together at the October 9, 2022 *First Responders Clam Chowder Fish Fry Community Event*.

Action: Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 10/19/2022**

**File #:** [22107](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Saums stated he did not have an update, noting that he would communicate with MPTN Council Member Crystal Whipple to discuss possible dates to schedule their Informal Gathering.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 9/21/2022**

**File #:** [22107](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul noted that unfortunately due to illness they had to cancel their Informal Gathering with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) that was scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2022. illness.

Councilor Saums stated that he would communicate with MPTN Council Member Crystal Whipple to discuss possible dates to reschedule their Informal Gathering.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Committee Meeting 8/17/2022**

**File #:** [22107](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

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**Title:** Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Saums stated he and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal (MPTN) Council Member Crystal Whipple have been communicating in an effort to identify potential dates for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and Town Council Community Relations Committee to get together. He stated Thursday, September 8, 2022 has been proposed and he questioned whether this date would work for the Community Relations Committee. Councilor Paul stated that he believed that September 8, 2022 would be a good date.

Councilor Saums stated Ms. Whipple would be sending an Invite to the Town Council for a “Meet and Greet” at the MTPN Community Center. He suggested during their Informal Gathering that it would be nice to share a meal; and he suggested the Community Relations Committee bring grinders.

**\*\* POST MEETING NOTE 8/18/2022:\*\*** Freedom of Information Act Tom Hennick regarding the posting of an Informal Social Gathering:

**“From:** Hennick, Thomas A <Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:06 PM

**To:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

**Subject:** RE: Town of Ledyard - Meeting Portal - Social Gathering Invite

Hello Roxanne,

Hope you are doing well.

I would suggest that while the *notes and questions council members type onto their copies of the online agendas would clearly be “public records”* under the definition in state statutes, *they also would likely be records that would not have to be released because they are personal notes, which can be withheld (see exemption below) under FOI.*

(b) Nothing in the Freedom of Information Act shall be construed to require disclosure of:

(1) Preliminary drafts or notes provided the public agency has determined that the public interest in withholding such documents clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure;

As for the second issue, ***I don't believe that council members attending an event sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council would be a meeting that needed to be noticed*** unless the council members sat down and conducted official council business. It doesn't sound like that's the case.

Feel free to follow up if needed.

Tom

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**From:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org) <<mailto:council@ledyardct.org>>>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:50 PM

To: Hennick, Thomas A <[Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov) <<mailto:Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>>>

Cc: Kristen Chapman <[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org) <<mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>>>; Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org) <<mailto:council@ledyardct.org>>>; Fred Allyn, III <[mayor@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayor@ledyardct.org) <<mailto:mayor@ledyardct.org>>>

Subject: Town of Ledyard - Meeting Portal - Social Gathering Invite

Good Afternoon Mr. Hennick:

I hope you are doing well and that you were enjoying the summer.

I am looking for guidance regarding the following two items:

- (1) Ledyard has transitioned to a new on-line meeting portal that allows Town Council Members and other Committee Members to review the on-line Agendas and to type a note or highlight text on attachments to remind themselves of questions they may like to ask during the Meeting. They would also be able to type the response to their question in the same place. These “Notes” would only be available to that person (Using their log-in & password).

**The Question** is whether these notes would be subject to a Freedom of Information Act Request (FOI).

Or would their notes be considered nothing more than if the person jotted down a note on a “sticky” or on their paper Agenda (if we were still using paper) and then throwing the note away after the meeting.

- (2) This is a somewhat of a repeat question. A few months ago, I asked you about the Town Council’s Subcommittees hosting “Informal Conversation” at various venues (such as parks or the Town’s historic properties ) to provide residents an opportunity to discuss any issues that were of concern to them. At that time you advised that the **Informal Gathering** would not need to be posted as a Meeting as long as they were not making any decisions.

**The Question**: Would the same apply, If the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council invited members of the Town Council or members of a subcommittee to an **Informal Gathering** at MPTN Community Center as a “Meet & Greet” more as a social event.

And if during their casual conversations with each other some ideas were exchanged regarding some areas they may want to consider working on jointly, would the town be required to post this as a meeting.

As always, I appreciate you taking the time to review our questions, and look forward to receiving your response/guidance.

Thank you,

Roxanne

**Roxanne M. Maher**

Administrative Assistant to

the Ledyard Town Council

(860) 464-3203

[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org) <<mailto:council@ledyardct.org>>”

Action: Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-260

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 5.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Continued review of status regarding the progress of improvements at the Park on East Drive.

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

**Meeting Action Detail:**

**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 02/15/2023**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note**

Councilor Paul stated he did not have an update regarding the Park on East Drive. He stated that he would contact Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., to discuss including the Parks and Recreation Commission members in the next Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive.

Councilor Saums suggested that the interested residents come to a Community Relations Committee meeting to tell them how things were going at the Park rather than the Committee going to them. Councilor Paul stated Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., mentioned that some residents have attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. Councilor Saums stated that was great, noting at the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering that the Community Relations Committee recommended the residents attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings because the Park on East Drive was under the Parks and Recreation

Commission's Administrative Control.

The Committee noted the last incident that occurred at the Park was in October, 2022 and that the last communication the Town Council saw was from one resident in December, 2022 which was a police matter.

Councilor Paul went on to note that during the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive that the Committee told the residents that they would host another Informal Gathering to follow-up on the actions that were taken to make safety and other improvements at the Park.

The Committee discussed possibly visiting all of the town's Parks.

The Community Relations Committee noted that they would like to hold the follow-up Informal Gathering in May, 2023.

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 01/18/2023**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he spoke to Chief Rich and Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. about the activity at the Park; and that they both indicated that things have been going well.

Councilor Paul went on to note that during the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive that the Committee told the residents that they would host another Informal Gathering to follow-up on the actions that were taken to make safety and other improvements at the Park.

Councilor Paul continued by stating in speaking with Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., that he asked him to invite the Parks and Recreation Commission members to the next Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive, noting:

- The importance of the Parks and Recreation Commission’s involvement.
- The importance for the residents to understand that the Park was under the Administrative Control of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- That residents could attend the Parks and Recreation Commission’s meetings.

Councilor Paul stated that Mr. Johnson would like to have the Informal Gathering at East Park in April or May and that he would follow-up with him.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 12/21/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note**

Councilor Paul stated he spoke to Chief Rich and Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. about the activity at the Park; and that they both indicated that things have been going well.

Councilor Paul went on to note that during the July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive that the Committee told the residents that they would host another Informal Gathering to follow-up on the actions that were taken to make safety and other improvements at the Park.

Councilor Paul continued by stating in speaking with Parks and Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr., that he asked him to invite the Parks and Recreation Commission members to the next Informal Gathering at the Park on East Drive, noting:

- The importance of the Parks and Recreation Commission’s involvement
- The importance for the residents to understand that the Park was under the Administrative Control of the Parks and Recreation Commission,
- That residents could attend the Parks and Recreation Commission’s meetings.

Councilor Paul stated that Mr. Johnson would like to have the Informal Gathering at East Park in April or May

and that he would follow-up with him.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 12/21/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he did not have an update regarding the improvements at the Park, noting that the activity has been fairly quiet with the shorter days and colder temperatures. He noted that Mr. Jamieson has been communicating with Police Chief John Rich and Mayor Allyn, III to resolve an issue.

Councilor Saums commented on the good participation the Community Relations Committee received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive. He stated that he believed the good turnout was because they had a topic for the discussion, noting that residents previously brought concerns regarding safety issues at the Park to the town's attention. He also noted that letters were sent to the residents in the area of Park; and that the letters were followed-up with a mailing of flyers the week before the event.

Councilor Paul stated during the July 20, 2022 Gathering the Committee told the residents that they would host another Informal Gathering to follow-up on the actions that were taken to make safety improvements at the Park. He stated although he has stopped by the Park on his own that he would like the Committee to host another Informal Gathering with the residents in the Spring, 2023. He stated that he has been communicating with Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. on the progress of the improvements, noting that the lights were now working and looked great and that the wood chips for the playscape areas were delivered.

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**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 11/16/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Meeting Note:**

Councilor Rodriguez stated she spoke to a woman who lived on a street close to East Drive. She stated the woman noted

that she was a lifetime Ledyard resident and that she provided positive comments regarding the improvements to the Park on East Drive.

Chairman Dombrowski stated Mr. Jamison has reached out to him a few times and he noted that Mr. Jamison had positive comments regarding the work that Parks & Recreation has done with the new lights, and the wood chips for the playscape areas, etc.

Councilor Paul stated he visited the Park on East Drive (Christy Hill Park), and he noted the lights and other improvements looked great. He thanked Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. and the Parks & Recreation Department for the work they have done in the Park. He stated during the July 20, 2022 gathering members of the Town Council had discussed following-up with residents and revisiting the Park once the improvements were completed. However, he stated with the shorter day light hours that they may need to wait until spring. He noted because some of the work took some time, that he wanted to also thank the residents for their patience.

Councilor Saums suggested inviting the residents in the East Drive Park area to a Community Relations Committee to follow up with them on the progress of the improvements and security issues.

Councilor Paul stated the Committee could invite the East Park Drive residents to their January or February, 2023 meeting.

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 10/19/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul stated he visited the Park on East Drive (Christy Hill Park) today and he noted the lights looked great. He stated the railroad ties and wood chips have not been done yet, but that the improvements were progressing nicely. He stated that he would contact Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. to discuss the status of the park improvements.

Councilor Paul continued by noting the e-mail received from Mr. Jamieson noting that the residents in the area were happy with the progress that has been made at the Park to date.

**Action:** Continued

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### **Community Relations Cmt Meeting 9/21/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Paul noted he attended the Parks & Recreation Commission's September 20, 2022 meeting. He stated the reason the Commission decided not to hold their meeting at the Park on East Street (which P&R refer to as the Christy Hill Park) was because they were still working with Eversource to have the light's that have been installed turned on. He stated Mr. Johnson was hoping to have the lights turned on by their October 18, 2022 meeting. However, Councilor Paul stated that if Eversource does not get the light's turned on soon that Mr. Johnson would like the members of the Community Relations Committee join him in an informal gathering to talk with the residents to follow-up on the status of work at the Park.

Councilor Paul went on to note that Mr. Johnson reported that the Parks & Recreation Department has been locking the Park every night. Also, the Department was continuing to clean up areas of the Park; and along with addressing other issues, they were working on the infields.

Councilor Rodriguez stated Ms. Jamieson reported that the residents were happy with lights that were installed and with the work that has been done in the Park. However, she noted that Ms. Jamieson stated the residents would still like to meet with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Councilor Rodriguez stated because the daylight hours were getting shorter that the Parks & Recreation Commission may not be able to hold a meeting at the Park; and therefore, she suggested that perhaps the residents could meet with Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. Councilor Paul, and herself. She noted that Ms. Jamieson seemed to be pleased with holding such a meeting.

Councilor Saums suggested that residents could attend the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings, noting that they were open to the Public and they could express their concerns or just listen to the meeting. He stated the Parks & Recreation Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation/Senior Citizens Center on Van Tassel Drive, in Gales Ferry.

Councilor Saums went on to state in reading the Parks & Recreation Commission minutes that they have been discussing the Park on East Drive, which the Commission referred to as "*Christy Hill Park*". He also noted the Parks & Recreation Director's Report was included as part of the Commission's Meeting Minutes and that Mr. Johnson has reported on the wood chips, the lights, Eversource, etc.

The Committee noted the Town Council received e-mail received from Mr. Jamieson earlier today regarding the Park on East Drive.

**Action:** Continued

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**Community Relations Cmt Meeting 8/17/2022**

**File #:** [22260](#) Version: 1

**Type:** General Discussion

**Title:** Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive

**Action:** Continued

**Minute Note:**

Councilor Saums complimented Councilor Paul for his organization of the Informal Conversation at the Park on East Drive that was held on July 20, 2022. He stated they had a great turn out and a good conversation with the residents, noting at times it was somewhat emotional, but all-in-all he believed everyone felt good about their conversation.

Councilor Paul stated about 15 residents attended the event along with many Town Councilors and Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. He stated the idea was to discuss important issues regarding safety concerns at the Park. He noted at times the conversation was a bit contentious, but overall, it turned out to be a positive event. He stated what he found interesting was that while the group was standing in a circle that people were raising their voices and that was when the conversation became contentious. However, he stated as they broke up and engaged one-on-one with each other the conversations became more civil. He stated they discussed a number of good ideas to bring back to their respective committees such as the possibility to install surveillance cameras. He stated neighbors were encouraged to continue to talk to each other and to become more involved in the process as well. He stated they learned a lot about the Park and a lot about each other.

Councilor Paul went on to note that the Public Works Department has done a lot of work at the Park on East Drive, however, he stated more work needed to be done. He also stated that he appreciated Parks & Recreation Director Scott Johnson, Jr. attending the event and for letting the residents know that he was available should they have questions or concerns. Councilor Paul stated he appreciated Mr. Johnson's input, noting that Parks & Recreation would be holding their September 20, 2022 meeting at the Park.

The Community Relations Committee briefly discussed the suggestion to install surveillance cameras at the Park on East Drive relative to legal issues, requirements to monitor the cameras, and options such as posting signs to alert the public that surveillance cameras were in-use.

**Action:** Continued



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 22-091

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 6.

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

---

**File #:** 22-092

**Agenda Date:** 3/15/2023

**Agenda #:** 1

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AGENDA REQUEST  
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee.

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)