



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Garstka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Russell Holmberg was present via Zoom.
Town Councilor Naomi Rodriguez was also present.

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Ty and Jenny Lamb, 95 Lambtown Rd, brought up the following:
1) The Lambs established beekeeping on their farm and wanted to thank Chairman Marelli for volunteering his time to help them get started.
2) The Historic District Commission has been discussing community gardening at the Town level.
3) Suggested networking the Ledyard Agriscience Program with Clarke Farm to utilize the property. Also, asked about networking the schools with local farms.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Councilor Rodriguez brought copies of land deeds to address questions on restrictions from the last meeting:

State farm (1087) is deed restricted and should only be used for agricultural purposes.

Clarke Farm (1025) is not deed restricted. Chairman Marelli said a few groups are interested in the property such as Conservation. Councilor Rodriguez added that the Town may have an interest in the land in the future for something such as a new High School.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Angelini said she believes that a community garden is a major undertaking that should only be need based. Mr. Holmberg agreed with this statement and reiterated the importance of building a community garden only when there is a demonstrated need. He said the Town's liability also needs to be considered.

Mr. Holmberg said he believes there are liability umbrellas in place when an Agricultural Enterprise employs an Agri-science student.

VI. REPORTS

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular/Joint meeting minutes from March 21, 2023 as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 5 Marelli Angelini Garstka Yuhas Holmberg

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of topics raised in the joint meeting.

Chairman Garstka thought the joint meeting went well and received some positive feedback. He would like to plan another joint meeting.

2. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission

No update on the GIS overlays.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss next Joint Meeting time frame.

Chairman Garstka suggested scheduling another joint meeting for October 17, 2023, prior to the Agricultural Commission's Regular meeting.

2. Discussion of the email sent to the Mayor/Commissions.

No responses yet on the email sent regarding Clarke Farm. Councilor Rodriguez confirmed that

everyone has received the email. She noted that the Mayor Fred Allyn III was favorable in considering it. Chairman Garstka noted that it at least brought up the need to support agriculture in the Town.

3. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 5 Marelli Angelini Garstka Yuhas Holmberg

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

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