



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Vincent Godino

Regular meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Godino called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner William Barnes
Commissioner Melissa Dyson
Commissioner Douglas Kelley
Chairman Vincent Godino
Commissioner Earl Lamb
Non-voting Alternate Member Kenneth Geer

III. APPOINTMENTS OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting minutes from April 17, 2023, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: William Barnes

SECONDER: Earl Lamb

AYE 5 Barnes Dyson Kelley Godino Lamb

V. FISCAL REPORTS

1. Financial Reports.

Nathan Lester House: \$6000.00 (spent) \$2700.00 (remaining) - potentially repair the bulkhead.

Sawmill: \$4500.00 (spent) \$2100.00 (remaining) - purchase new metal detector.

Schoolhouse: \$200.00 (remaining) - \$400.00 was transferred into account. The cost for repairs ended up being less than estimated (\$1100.00 vs. \$1300.00).

Preservation \$400.00 (remaining).

Capital - \$27,000.00.

ARPA (Nathan Lester House) - \$28,000.00.

ARPA (Sawmill) - \$4,740.00 (spent) \$27,000.00 (remaining).
Donations (Nathan Lester House) - \$400.00.
Donations (Sawmill) - \$5,000.00.

Funds from the filming at the Nathan Lester House, will they expire? The Commission needs to determine.

Where will the funds be deposited (donations vs. capital)? Chairman Godino will research these questions and let the Commission know the answers.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee - Mr. Barnes

Security System -

A small adjustment was made to the motion detectors as the detectors continue to go off. There are two modes; active or stay. The mode was switched to the "stay" mode in hopes that mode prevents the motion detectors from sounding off.

Assessment on the Sawmill -

The Sawmill group has been in contact with James Grant who completed the assessment. Mr. Grant referred the group to Beth Ackley. A quote was requested to find out the cost to work with Ms. Ackley. Mr. Ganong has compiled a list of projects.

Repair of the downspout has been completed. The downspout was placed eight inches from the wall and was buried in the ground.

Mr. Ganong is composing a list of excess items that are not related to the mill in order to host another auction.

On Saturday May 20, 2023, Chairman Godino, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Ganong will be meeting to discuss the water intake and make a decision as to which repair path to take.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Ms. Dyson/Mr. Kelley

The movie filming completed last Friday (May 12, 2023). It went very well.

- The production company tried to source as much as they could locally (from catering to props).

- The production company worked with Ledyard High School in order to transport a flock of sheep to the grounds.

- The house was staged as a farmhouse on the coast of Massachusetts, for the time period of 1942.
- The use of fireplaces didn't work out and the production company opted out of using them altogether.
- Not only was the house utilized, both the carpentry shop and the barn were utilized as well. Filming also took place in the gardens and on the trails.
- Some items were moved (with the assistance of the Historic Society Curator) into the attic, items that were larger were moved to a storage unit.
- The house will reopen during Memorial Day weekend, staged as it was for the film. The production crew has donated many props to the Historical Society for use.
- The production crew presented a framed title page of the script signed by the cast.
- There will be credits in the film for the Town, Commission, Garden Club, Historic Society, etc.
- The Society may decide to keep the staging up throughout the open season. There may be a need for the Historic Society to provide docents to aid in tours.

The 4th of July event will be held this year.

Chairman Godino spoke with the Garden Club about the dinosaur tracks. The current location isn't ideal. Chairman Godino asked if it would be acceptable to move them to a more suitable location, perhaps by the pollinator garden. The Commission agreed that moving the dinosaur tracks would be a good plan.

3. Research/Preservation - Mr. Lamb

Members of the Commission along with Conservation Commission and Tri-Town Trial Association hiked to the Spicer ruins.

A second presentation will need to be created for the Lambtown project.

The historic signs are not ready yet but are in the queue as the painter has quite a few projects in process.

Potentially use the Nathan Lester House to distribute tree grafts next spring. Could the Nathan Lester House grounds be used as a nursery?

4. Center School - Mr. Geer

Repairs and painting to the schoolhouse have been completed. Mr. Geer provided some cedar

boards to Mr. Kelley. The boards may end up being used at the Lester House for bulkhead repairs.

A potential project for next year is to look at updating the inside (ceiling).

There are some concerns with the Schoolhouse in Gales Ferry Village. There may be water getting into the building. The Historic Society has been discussing this concern with the Church. Should the Town and the Commission become responsible? The Commission could offer some sort of assistance if required. Mr. Geer will reach out to the Society about attending the June meeting.

The Center School House will be open the first Sunday of the month for the next four months.

5. Social Media - Ms. Dyson

No updates.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.

Chairman Godino will follow up the request for a copy of the film contract.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission.

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Earl Lamb

SECONDER: William Barnes

AYE 5 Barnes Dyson Kelley Godino Lamb

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