



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes - Final

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Mike
Marelli

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

6:45 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marelli called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Marelli welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting.

II ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Roberta Levandoski
Commissioner James Harwood
Chair Michael E. Marelli
Commissioner David Holdridge
Alternate Member Barbara Kil

Excused Commissioner Amy Stephenson
Commissioner Kathleen Edgcomb
Alternate Member Jessica Buhle
Alternate Member Betsy Graham

In addition, the following were present:
Councilors Mary McGrattan and Gary Paul

Ms. Kil was appointed as a voting member and acting Secretary

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Resident Lloyd Scott of 14 Heath Spur was present to comment on Open Space in the Coachman Pike area that is being used as a dump. Chairman Marelli had investigated the property and determined that there is a 2.25-acre (parcel Lot #30) that belongs to the Town, which about half of it is considered wetland. Adjacent is 28 Coachman Pike which is thirty-nine acres and belongs to Mashantucket Trust.

Mr. Scott wondered if that parcel could be purchased by the Town as a park. Chairman Marelli said he would not make a recommendation for the Town to purchase the land. The land doesn't meet the Conservation Commission's criteria, such as linkage to other open spaces, natural resources, close proximity to any connecting trails or greenways and lastly the land is surrounded by houses. It was suggested that Mr. Scott could reach out to the Tribe, point out the litter problem, and see if they have any interest in a public hiking trail. Public Works might be able to clean up the area that belongs to the Town, by removing trash.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Betsy Graham was appointed as a permanent member to fill vacancy of Carmen Garcia-Irizarry

RESULT: COMPLETED

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

The Commission recommended to the Town Council that the Town enters into a lease agreement with the Graham property (600 Lantern Hill Road).

Chairman Marelli attended the Rotary Meeting in August where he held an Informational presentation on the Commission.

VI. REPORTS

1. Conservation Commission Financial Reports

The trail maintenance account funds that are not spend during the Calendar year go back into the same account and is able to accumulate. The funds can be spent on a large purchase such as building a bridge.

The White Hall trust account doesn't earn much interest. There is a balance of \$22,514. This account pays for mowing and brush hogging.

July 1, 2022, started a new fiscal year, there will be additional money added but it is not reflected in these reports.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular meeting minutes from July 12, 2022

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: David Holdridge

AYE 5 Levandoski Harwood Marelli Holdridge Kil

EXCUSED 4 Stephenson Edgcomb Buhle Graham

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Property Walks

The past month's temperature was too hot to walk. No walks to report.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. White-Hall Environmental Assessment

The assessment will take some time, the reports will not be ready until fall at the earliest. The report will be assessed through all seasons.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Open Space Acquisition Plan

Last month Betsey Graham asked about the Poquonnock Cove area. Chairman Marelli looked at Property maps in the area and there is no property ready to be acquired.

The Town has a Coastal Management Plan, the guidelines are set by the State. The Commission investigated educating property owners on the Cove about the environmental effects of fertilizer on the water quality

The Town also owns a very small boat launch area.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Collaborative meeting with certain Town Commissions.
The Agricultural Commission will host an informational Summit to network on land use in the town of Ledyard.

The meeting will be held on October 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

The other Commissions/Boards invited are Land Use, Agricultural, Inland Wetland, Zoning, Town Planner, Planning/ Zoning and Economic Development.

Background:

The Agricultural Commission suggested coordinating an annual collaborative meeting during the Commission's June meeting.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Future use of former Dow property
This property is zoned for industrial Use. While there has been much discussion, the Commission will not comment at this time.

While the new company will only use around ten acres of the land, the Commission will wait to see what happens to the remaining property and for a report from DEEP. Dow Chemical has maintained ownership of the property across the street

There is a group of interested people in Gales Ferry that are concerned about the effects of the traffic on Route 12.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6.

Chairman Marelli said he would be unable to attend the August 17, 2022 Farmers Market. He asked the Commission for volunteers, but no one will be available to manage the tent on that date. Chairman Marelli will send out an email to see if there is a date available in September for volunteers.

RESULT: CONTINUE

7. Discussion with various parties concerning application of an OSWA grant.

Mr. Holdridge sent letters to Avalonia and Groton Utilities about the Property at 148 Stoddard's Wharf Road. Chairman Marelli said that he received a response from Dennis Main at Avalonia he said Avalonia would be willing to have a discussion with the Commission. Chairman Marelli didn't receive a response from Groton Utilities.

The Commission is interested in partnering with Avalonia, CC, Tri Town Trail and Groton Conservation Commission. It is a large watershed property and a Greenway that could also connect with TTT.

First the Property owner would need to agree and Groton Utilities would need to be contacted. Mr Holdridge will speak to Councilor Saums to see who the contact person for the Town of Ledyard is at Groton utilities. The Commission is not prepared to apply for this Grant this year.

RESULT: CONTINUE

8. Any other Old Business to come before the Commission
Charles Pratt who owns the property that could connect the Kettle Hole trail and the Glacier Park has not responded to the Commission's outreach. Councilor Paul is his neighbor and will ask again.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

RESULT: COMPLETED

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Marelli moved the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Dan Holdridge

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0 Approved and so declared

Respectively Submitted,

Michael Marelli
Chairman Conservation Committee

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