

From: [Lee Ann Berry](#)
To: [Elizabeth Burdick](#)
Subject: Support of Village District and Design Guidelines
Date: Monday, August 10, 2026 2:14:37 PM

To the Members of the Ledyard Planning & Zoning Commission:

I am writing in strong support of re-establishing Village District and its Design Guidelines.

Our Town has a character that has developed over generations. Our historic village, modest scale of development, mature trees and wooded landscapes, relationship to the Thames River, and mix of residential, civic, and commercial areas create a sense of place that is worth protecting as our community continues to grow.

I believe the proposed Design Guidelines provide a thoughtful way to do that without preventing appropriate development. They do not require every building to look historic or the same. Instead, they provide reasonable guidance for building scale and placement, landscaping, parking, lighting, signage, pedestrian access, public views, and how new development relates to the surrounding community.

I especially support the attention given to transition areas between our village and larger commercial or mixed-use development. New development should be welcomed when appropriate, but its size, design, parking, and relationship to neighboring properties can permanently change the character of an area. Thoughtful standards can help development become part of Ledyard and Gales Ferry rather than overwhelm what makes it distinctive.

These guidelines can also provide greater clarity and predictability for property owners and developers by establishing expectations before an application is submitted.

Most importantly, we have an opportunity to be proactive about the future of our town. Once historic character, important landscapes, views, and village-scale development patterns are lost, they are extremely difficult to restore.

Preserving community character and supporting responsible economic development should not be competing goals. With thoughtful planning, we can accomplish both.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Planning & Zoning Commission to support the re-establishment of the Village District and its Design Guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Respectfully,
Lee Ann Berry
Gales Ferry