



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

Meeting Minutes

12 Van Tassel Drive
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Kenneth J. DiRico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

7:00 PM

Parks & Recreation/Senior Citizens
Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman DiRico at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Chairperson Kenneth J. DiRico
Chairman Lucrezia Finegan
Chairman Carol Ann Schneider
Chairman Lauren Hawes
Chairman Loretta Kent
Chairman Paula Crocker
Excused Alternate Member Vanessa Sotelo
Alternate Member Stephanie Bacon

Also in attendance was Scott Johnson, Director of Ledyard Parks, Recreation and Senior Center.

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Upcoming Events and Activities.

None.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Member Comments.

Ms. Kent stated that she has seen posts on social media complaining about the light parade being cancelled. She suggested we could coordinate with the Jeep parade and incorporate a tree lighting with Santa.

VI. REPORTS

1. Reports.

Director's Report.

Hometown Heroes event went very well, 2 veterans who were to receive quilts could not attend and will be presented with their quilts during a Tuesday morning breakfast.

Applications are flowing in for the office assistance position, interviews should begin next week.

The refrigerator in the kitchen and the coffee pot in the main room have both stopped working and will need to replace them both.

Carpeting in the offices is being completed this week.

Everything at the fields has been winterized and turned off, and back flow preventers have been pulled out.

Motion to ACCEPT the Director's report.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan

SECONDER: Carol Ann Schneider

AYE 6 DiRico Finegan Schneider Hawes Kent Crocker

EXCUSED 2 Sotelo Bacon

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2025.

It was requested that the minutes of previous meetings and the agenda be posted onto the Town of Ledyard website to give members ample time to review before the meetings.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan

SECONDER: Carol Ann Schneider

AYE 6 DiRico Finegan Schneider Hawes Kent Crocker

EXCUSED 2 Sotelo Bacon

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss ideas for FY26-27 Capital Projects

- Blonders Upgrades: New toilets (2 have been replaced out of necessity), add electrical switched for pavilion lighting (currently turned on/off at the breaker). Inconvenient and stress on breaker panel.

-Security Cameras: Security cameras for the GFCC, SR CTR, and possibly Blonders.

-Senior Center Sign: The sign deteriorated and a piece fell off the building. The remainder of the sign was removed due to safety concerns.

-AED's and Climate Controlled Boxes: With new technology they now make climate-controlled AED boxes. This allows us to place them in the parks. AED's triple the chance of survival from cardiac arrest compared to CPR alone.

-Park Amenities: Dog bag stations, bleachers, field boxes, etc.

-Tree trimming / removal: Trim and take down trees that are a safety concern in various parks.

-Temporary tents and bounce house: Could be an opportunity to generate additional revenue for rentals. In addition, the bounce house would save us money during summer camp potentially allowing us to reduce fees. Need to talk to CIRMA to see if they will allow this under our insurance.

-Playground Mulch/ ADA matts and replacement parts: Keep woodchips at an acceptable level, install ADA matts(also prolong woodchip life) and replace missing parts on playscapes not being replaced under the STEAP grant.

-Tennis/ Pickleball Court Repairs: We historically put money aside each year to allow us to regularly crack fill/ clean the courts. This significantly prolongs the life of the courts.

-Kitchen suppression system upgrades: Extend the capabilities of our fire suppression hood to allow for a fryer. **ONLY IF IT CAN'T BE DONE/FUNDED BY PW.**

-Football Field LED Lights: Upgrade the Judge Crandall football field lights to LED. Better quality lighting with significant reduction in utility expenses. Current wood poles are starting to get "spongy" near the top.

-LHV Park Contingency Funding: Additional funding if needed to complete building the new Lantern Hill Valley Park.

-Blonders Material Storage: use concrete blocks to create bunkers to store materials such as loam, wood chips, sand. Allows us to buy material in bulk saving money while ensuring we always have material on hand.

Subcommittee to address club/league youth sports council - the goal is to have ready for spring sports meetings.

2. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible motion to APPROVE the FY2026-27 budget.

RESULT: TABLED

2. Election of Officers.

RESULT: TABLED

3. Motion to APPROVE 2026 Calendar Meeting dates as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan

SECONDER: Lauren Hawes

AYE 6 DiRico Finegan Schneider Hawes Kent Crocker

EXCUSED 2 Sotelo Bacon

4. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.

Entered Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. to discuss a youth sports issue. Adjournment of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:52 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Paula Crocker

SECONDER: Loretta Kent

AYE 6 DiRico Finegan Schneider Hawes Kent Crocker

EXCUSED 2 Sotelo Bacon

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