



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Garstka at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Farming Community Russell Holmberg
Farming Community Michael E. Marelli

Alternate Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community William Thorne

Also in attendance was Jeff Islandburger, resident.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

None.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

Chairman Garstka mentioned that the CT Farm Bureau sent a pamphlet. No other correspondence.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

Mr. Thorne attended an FOI meeting and shared a few items. He said that email correspondence

pertaining to the Commission can be subject to FOI and emails (even on personal email accounts) need to be preserved. The Town Clerk is the Town's FIO contact person, and he advised the Commissioners to contact her if any FIO requests are made.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Garstka Holmberg Marelli

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council Liaison report.

Ty Lamb was not present to give his Liaison report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka said he spoke with Mayor Fred Allyn III and reported that the Clark Farm criteria is progressing, although slowly. It was passed by Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee and the Town Council; it is now waiting for the RFP to be completed.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Yuhas said that she found out that the AG students do not have to complete community service. Mr. Holmberg said there is a lot of misinformation surrounding the 490 program. Every five years a reappraisal is required. The person who has been doing the reappraisals for the past thirty years recently retired. There have been some instances of 200% - 300% increases in State appraisals of 490 land but that did not equate to a 2-3 doubling of actual taxes. Mr. Holmberg said, for example, the Holmberg orchard appraisal tripled but the taxes did not triple. The Commissioners discussed tax increase vs. appraisal increases.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:23 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: William Thorne

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Garstka Holmberg Marelli

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