



Chairman Gary St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard, CT 06339

<http://www.ledyardct.org>

Administrative Assistant

Roxanne M. Maher

860 464-3203

HYBRID FORMAT
MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

DRAFT

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Brunelle at 6:31 p.m. at the Council Chambers - Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Brunelle welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and members of the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town's Website – Granicus-Insite Meeting Portal.

II. ROLL CALL-

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location	Arrived	Departed
April Brunelle	Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm
Adrienne Parad	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm
Ty (Earl) Lamb	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm
Jeff Eilenberger	Resident	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm
Cory Watford	Resident	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	In-Person	6:31 pm	7:31 pm

- III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS – None.

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION – None.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Community Relations for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Special Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2026.

Moved by Councilor Parad, seconded by Councilor Lamb

Discussion: Councilor Lamb stated that he was not going to ask for the May 27, 2026 minutes to be corrected, noting that they were fine as written. However, he stated that he wanted to clarify the intent of his comments regarding the recognition of Colonel William Ledyard. He stated what he was saying was that if they cannot make arrangements with the Groton Bill Library in time to display Colonel Ledyard's sword

during the Memorial Day Parade; that perhaps they could have event to recognize Colonel Ledyard and display his sword either in September when he died; or in December for his birthday.

VOTE: 3 – 0- Approved and so declared

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Sustainable CT AD Hoc Committee's request as transmitted in their May 12, 2026 letter regarding the following:

- Host an Equity Training
- Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity

Host an Equity Training

Councilor Brunelle noted in their May 12, 2026 letter the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee requested the Town Council Host an Equity Training for staff, elected officials, and volunteers to help the town obtain the needed Points for the Bronze Certification; and she noted that a proposed Resolution/ Equity Statement was provided for review and discussion this evening.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher provided an update regarding the scheduling of the Equity Training for staff, elected officials and volunteers. She noted the following:

- ✓ ***Sustainable CT Fellow*** – Ms. Maher stated that she contacted Sustainable CT Fellow Natalie Crowley to see if she, or whether there were others, available that could provide the Equity Training. She noted that unfortunately Ms. Crowley responded explaining that they do not provide Equity Training.
- ✓ ***SERAC*** - Ms. Maher stated she contacted SERAC, located in Norwich, because she participated in an Equity Training through SERAC about 3 years ago. However, she stated in speaking their Executive Director Mark Irons that he noted that all of SERAC's trainings were free; however, he explained for the Equity Training that SERAC contracted with another organization to provide the Equity Training, because they do not provide that specific training themselves.
- ✓ ***KJR Consulting*** - Ms. Maher stated that she also sent a message to KJR Consulting (Sustainable CT Fellow Ms. Crowley provided the contact information for this Organization) and asked that they contact her to discuss the types of Training Programs they provide. She noted to date she had not heard back from KJR Consulting.

****POST MEETING NOTE: 6/25/2026****: KJR Consulting provided a proposal in the amount of \$3,000 to provide Equity Training.

- ✓ ***Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee*** – Ms. Maher stated in speaking with the Ad Hoc Committee’s Clerical Assistant Anna Wynn to ask for the contact information of the person that provided the Equity Training to Ledyard’s Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee, that Ms. Wynn explained that they do not provide the training to towns.

Ms. Maher stated that she would continue to look for sources that would be able to provide the Equity Training.

****POST MEETING NOTE: 7/2/2026****

“From: Nate Woody <natewoody7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 8:59 AM
To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Re: Sustainable CT Town Council- Position Statement

*Roxanne,
I'm back in town and playing catch-up!*

I think the resolution looks good. I made some minor suggested edits, but they can all be safely ignored as they are style only, I saw no substantive issues with the resolution. It reads well and covers all needed ground. I've attached the edits with track changes on in case you care to look at them.

I saw the 7/8 meeting and that is no problem. I will be present if needed for that.

The 3k for equity training doesn't seem reasonable to me. We can check with Anna to be sure but I think we can afford to lose the points from that and still be OK.

Nate”

Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity

Councilor Brunelle noted in their May 12, 2026 letter the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee requested the Town Council adopt a Statement on Equity to help the town obtain the needed Points for the Bronze Certification; and she noted that a proposed Resolution/ Equity Statement was provided for review and discussion this evening.

The Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion reviewed a draft “Resolution - Town of Ledyard Position Statement and Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion” dated June 11, 2026.

- ❖ MOTION to recommend the Town Council adopt a proposed “Resolution - Town of Ledyard Position Statement and Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion” as presented in the draft dated June 11, 2026.

RESOLUTION
TOWN OF LEDYARD POSITION STATEMENT AND
COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard recognizes their role to promote equity and the importance to implement policies and practices to ensure equitable services to all of its citizens;

WHEREAS: Local government and school districts impact the daily life of its citizens in multiple ways; through its police and fire protection, schools, parks and playgrounds, free public library and access to technology including computers, the internet, audio books, and other sensory learning tools, zoning and code enforcement, fair housing practices, trash pick-up, street maintenance, snow removal, food pantry, and more.

WHEREAS: The 2020 establishment of the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion supports the town's interest to address equity, and facilitates open conversations resulting in programs such as the Black History Essay & Poster Contest for all Ledyard students, including homeschooled, and magnet school students, Woman of the Year Award and other initiatives such as the Ledyard Academy providing transparency on how their local government works; and how residents can access the programs and services provided by the town;

WHEREAS: The Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion identified the inequity in public health between citizens who have access to primary healthcare and those who do not, inspiring volunteers to mobilize and launch a "*Ledyard Primary Care for All Americans PILOT Program*"; and the Town Council's adoption of a "*Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans*";

WHEREAS: In recognizing the importance to address race and equity gaps the Town Council adopted a "*Resolution Regarding the Town's Position Against Use of Racist And Discriminatory Language And Behavior*" in 2022; and adopted a "*Town Council Position Statement Regarding Board of Education Plans, Policies, Programs*" in 2021. With the adoption of this Resolution the Ledyard Town Council restates these positions.

WHEREAS: The Ledyard Town Council adopted success goals intended to guide decision-making, strengthen long-term fiscal and capital planning to ensure responsible use of taxpayer resources; improve communication and community engagement, green and clean energy initiatives, waste management composting programs, and to continue to build on our process which initially began in 2020 to achieve a Sustainable CT Certification by implementing initiatives to ensure equity and fairness for all our citizens;

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard has implemented a number of programs which included a streetlight assessment that resulted in the purchase of the streetlights from Eversource and converting them to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs saving both

energy and taxpayer dollars; constructed the Multi-Use Pathway from Ledyard High School to Ledyard Center to expand safe, connected, active transportation for all pedestrians and bicyclists; extending the sewer line providing infrastructure for both affordable housing and business development; improvements to the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry providing an equitable community food action plan to ensure that all community members can access sustainable, nutritious food; improvements to the Town Green providing handicap access to one of the best Farmers' Markets in the State for residents to purchase fresh produce from local farmers and featuring many community organizations providing information to residents regarding fuel assistance, mental health services, public safety services, and many other commodities and programs; regionalization of shared services with the Town of Preston by providing Emergency Dispatch Communication Services, Tax Assessor Services, Public Works Mechanic Services, and the shared purchase of a streetsweeper to maintain the required MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit Certifications.

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard continuously works to identify and implement solutions to challenges, utilizes the latest technologies for their workforce and citizens, providing access and transparency to their local government through its meeting portal, as well as live and on-demand meeting videos; installing a handicap accessible circulation desk in the Library, handicap accessible counter in the Town Clerk's Office, a Lift in the Town Hall providing handicap access to the second level, and more;

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard is committed to assess progress and inequities in providing services to their citizens and looks for options to accommodate those needs, understanding that it was not enough to assume that an initiative is providing its intended outcome;

WHEREAS: Diverse viewpoints through the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and experiences help the community to communicate effectively with others of varied backgrounds; fosters mutual respect and teamwork; strengthens our community, and is vital for the town's success.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Each and every day, the Town of Ledyard strives to be a welcoming and inclusive equity-minded, anti-racist community and workplace, where everyone regardless of ethnic heritage, religion, economic background, identity or ability feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute; a real sense of belonging; and a community they call Home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The diverse population of the Town of Ledyard is one of its greatest assets; as we learn from each other; and work together to lift-up our neighbors in-need.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Gary A. St. Vil, Chairman

History: In working to obtain points toward achieving a Bronze Level Sustainable CT Certification, Ledyard's Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee asked the Town Council to adopt an "*Equity Statement*".

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Parad

Discussion: Councilor Lamb commented on the following:

- Fifth "Whereas":

*"WHEREAS: In recognizing the importance to address race and equity gaps the Town Council adopted a "Resolution Regarding the Town's Position Against Use of Racist And Discriminatory Language And Behavior in 2022; and adopted a "**Town Council Position Statement Regarding Board of Education Plans, Policies, Programs**" in 2021."*

Councilor Lamb noted the proposed Resolution specifically mentioned that Town Council adopted "**Town Council Position Statement Regarding Board of Education Plans, Policies, Programs**" in 2021; and he suggested they use this opportunity to review some of these older documents to see if they needed to be updated.

- Third "Whereas"

*"WHEREAS: The 2020 establishment of the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion supports the town's interest to address equity, and facilitates open conversations resulting in programs such as the Black History Essay & Poster Contest for **all Ledyard students, including homeschooled, and magnet school students**, Woman of the Year Award and other initiatives such as the Ledyard Academy providing transparency on how their local government works; and how residents can access the programs and services provided by the town";*

Councilor Lamb noted the following language: "... **including homeschooled, and magnet school students**,..." He stated the Board of Education's Policy does not allow **homeschooled, and magnet school students** to participate in their clubs. He noted a few years ago there was a petition that called for the Board of Education to allow **homeschooled, and magnet school students** to participate in their clubs; which was signed by many including members of the Town Council. Therefore, he questioned whether the Town Council should continue to sit on the sidelines.

Councilor Parad responded to Councilor Lamb stating that the proposed Resolution was specifically talking about the Black History Month Essay and Poster Contest. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher explained that the Black History Month Essay and Poster Contest was specifically done by the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, noting that it was not a Board of Education sponsored program. Councilor Lamb stated although he would probably not vote against the proposed Resolution; that it brings up a derivative action item, and therefore, he would

suggest they start making a registry of things in town that were not equitable so that they could be addressed. Councilor Parad stated adopting the proposed “*Resolution - Town of Ledyard Position Statement and Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*” was the first step in the process to work toward achieving a Bronze Certification. She stated what Councilor Lamb suggested would be part of the next step for the Silver Certification Process.

Councilor Lamb continued by addressing the topic of representation within their elected officials. He noted as an example that if a community was made up of 45% Latinos, 28% European; and 26% Middle Eastern, but their Town Council had 6 European; 3 Middle Eastern, and no Latinos, who made up 45% of the population, whether they would consider that to be an unequitable outcome that they should try to solve. Councilor Brunelle stated that there had to be an opportunity for all people to run for office. However, she stated if they did not apply to seek elected office, that the outcome of the election would be a result of those individuals who chose to seek elected office. She stated that they could not force people to serve their community. Councilor Lamb stated the current Town Council was comprised of democrats and republicans; however, he stated Ledyard was comprised of 46% unaffiliated voters; and therefore the unaffiliated residents were under represented. He stated that he would be okay with approving the *Resolution - Town of Ledyard Position Statement and Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*” as presented in the draft dated June 11, 2026; if this Committee would talk about some of these derivate actions in the future; and potentially update some of the other documents he mentioned this evening.

Councilor Parad noted the fourth Whereas; stating that before the Town Council adopted this Resolution that they would need to have adopted the proposed “*Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans*”.

“WHEREAS: The Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion identified the inequity in public heath between citizens who have access to primary healthcare and those who do not, inspiring volunteers to mobilize and launch a “Ledyard Primary Care for All Americans PILOT Program; and the Town Council’s adoption of a “Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans”.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted that the Town Council would adopt the “*Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans*” before the *Resolution - Town of Ledyard Position Statement and Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*”. She explained before this Resolution would be forwarded this proposed Resolution to the Town Council for action that they would want to ask the Sustainable CT Committee to review the document to ensure that it would meet their requirements. She also noted that a draft “*Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans*” was included on tonight’s Agenda, which they would discuss later tonight.

VOTE: 3 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	3 – 0 APPROVED TO RECOMMEND
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Adrienne Parad, Committee Member
AYES:	April Brunelle, Ty Lamb, Adrienne Parad

2. Primary Care for All Americans.

Councilor Parad noted at the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion’s May 27, 2026 meeting she provided some example Resolutions for their review and to consider drafting a “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” to help advance the *Primary Care for All* initiative. She stated based on their discussion a draft Resolution was provided for discussion this evening.

- ❖ MOTION to recommend the Town Council adopt a “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” as presented in the draft dated June ~~3~~¹⁷, 2026.

DRAFT: ~~6/3/2026~~ 6/17/2026

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING PRIMARY CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

WHEREAS: primary care is ~~foundation~~ *an essential building block* of a healthy community, providing preventive services, early diagnosis, and ongoing management of chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, access to primary care improves health outcomes, reduces avoidable emergency room visits, and lowers overall healthcare costs for residents of Ledyard, Connecticut; and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ledyard recognizes that many residents face barriers to accessing timely and affordable primary care, including lack of insurance, high out-of-pocket costs, and shortages of local providers; and

WHEREAS, ensuring universal access to primary care strengthens public health, supports economic stability, and promotes equity across all communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ledyard Town Council expresses its strong support for policies and programs that guarantee accessible, affordable primary care for all residents, and urges state and federal leaders to prioritize primary care as an essential public good.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Gary St. Vil, Chairman

The intent of the “*Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” is to advance the Primary Care for All initiative.

Moved by Councilor Parad, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Councilor Lamb noted the first sentence as follows:

“*WHEREAS: primary care is the **foundation** of a healthy community, providing preventive services, early diagnosis, and ongoing management of chronic conditions; and*”

Councilor Lamb stated that he disagreed with using the word “**foundation**”; and he stated that he could not vote favorably on the proposed “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” because there were many elements beside primary care that contributed to a “*healthy community*”; such as religion, and faith in Jesus and God; a strong family faith-based group in your support group, no matter what you define as your family, noting without that you don't have anything. He stated “**foundation**” to him meant that without it everything else would fall apart; and nothing good would come out of it. However, he stated that he would concur that healthcare was part of the foundation.

Councilor Brunelle stated that the proposed “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” was specifically referring to individual’s physical medical health. She noted other elements would refer to the emotional, social, and economic health of a community from the aspect of a social status. Therefore, she stated that primary care was the foundation for a healthy community.

Councilor Parad explained the proposed “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” was talking about the Healthcare System. She stated without having a foundation of primary care the healthcare system would collapse. Councilor Lamb stated that he did not think primary care was the only variable to a healthy community, and that he did not think without primary care the whole system would collapse. Councilor Parad asked Councilor Lamb to provide some wording that he would like to see used instead of “**foundation**”.

Councilor Lamb stated they have a lot of problems with healthcare in America, starting with the insurance companies. He stated that they could not fund primary care when the insurances companies were taking all of the resources that were supposed to be going into the system. He questioned what good is primary care if the insurance company denied the patient access to the tests that the doctor said they needed; or the insurance company says that they do not qualify for a service. He stated they currently have a healthcare system that worked for some part of the community.

Councilor Parad explained that the “*Whereas*” paragraphs were providing the background, noting that the “*Resolved*” paragraph was the purpose of the Resolution. She stated the purpose of the proposed Resolution was “*for the Ledyard Town Council to express its strong support for policies and programs that guarantee accessible, affordable primary care for all residents, and urges state and federal leaders to prioritize primary care as an essential public good*”. Councilor Lamb stated the insurance companies were blocking all of this from occurring.

Mr. Jeff Eilenberger, 2 Village Drive, Ledyard, stated the insurance company would penalize you if you do not have a primary care physician. Councilor Parad asked Mr. Eilenberger whether he agreed that primary care was the foundation. He stated that he absolutely agreed that primary care was the foundation, noting that he has had a number of healthcare insurance plans both in state and out of state.

Councilor Lamb stated that he did not believe primary care was the foundation, and therefore, he could not vote favorably on the proposed *Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*”.

Councilor Parad asked Councilor Lamb to suggest some words to replace “*foundation*”. Councilor Lamb stated if you were religious you would have Jesus and God; a strong family, a faith-based group in your support group, no matter what you define as your family, noting without that, you don't have anything. Councilor Brunelle stated that God does not help with the diagnosis and on-gong management of chronic conditions. Councilor Lamb stated that he personally gets his healthcare in Brazil. He stated if they asked people on the street if they liked their doctor; and if they liked the healthcare in America; that he would bet that 8 out of 10 would say they were fine. Councilor Brunelle stated they were digressing, stating that primary care is the foundation of a healthy community. Councilor Lamb told the Committee to take the vote, noting they had their two votes, and that he was not going to agree with them.

Councilor Parad suggested replacing the word “~~foundation~~” with “*as an essential building block*” in the first “Whereas” .

The Committee agreed to the change as noted below as a “*friendly amendment*”

“*WHEREAS: primary care is ~~foundation~~— an essential building block of a healthy community, providing preventive services, early diagnosis, and ongoing management of chronic conditions; and*”

VOTE: 3 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	3 – 0 APPROVED TO RECOMMEND
MOVER:	Adrienne Parad, Committee Member
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Committee Member
AYES:	April Brunelle, Ty Lamb, Adrienne Parad

3. Recognition of Colonel William Ledyard and Commemorate the Battle of Groton Heights.

Councilor Lamb stated when he visited the Groton Bill Library to talk about the possibility to borrow Colonel Ledyard’s Sword; they were on vacation. Therefore, he stated that he would check back with them next week.

Councilor Lamb continued to note as a follow up to his earlier comments (IV. Minutes Approval) that it was too late to try to coordinate borrowing Colonel Ledyard's Sword to display at the rescheduled Memorial Day Parade, which was moved to June 27, 2026 due to the heavy rain. Therefore, he stated they may want to consider planning an event for September 6th which was when Colonel Ledyard died at the Battle of Groton Heights.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

4. Discuss the Foster Care Community

Councilor Brunelle noted that she mentioned the Foster Care Community at the Town Council's May 27, 2026 meeting.

Councilor Parad suggested the Committee remove this item from their future agendas.

The Committee agreed by consensus to remove this item from their future agendas.

RESULT: Remove from Agenda

5. Identify various town venues to host "2026 *Informal Conversations in the Park*" to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Councilor Lamb suggested they identify the different active community groups such as Citizens Alliance Land Use (CALU) for their Informal Conversations in the Park to focus on some their projects that were affecting the whole community.

Councilor Parad commented on Councilor Lamb's suggestion, noting that she was hesitant, because she did not want the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to be seen as promoting certain groups in town and not others. She noted groups such as CALU have already been hosting and inviting a lot people to their meetings, noting that they probably have better attendance than they get at Town Council meetings. Therefore, she questioned how CALU would benefit by being brought into a Town Council event; noting that she did not believe that it would provide them with any additional viewership. Councilor Lamb stated that CALU was just one example, noting that he had a list of several community groups that support the town. He noted that it would be an opportunity to ask these diverse community groups how the Town Council could help them.

Councilor Lamb went on to note in 2023 they had an Informational Conversation at a park in Gales Ferry, noting that many members of the Town Council were in attendance and it resulted in work being done at the park, noting that lights were installed and a gate

to the park, etc., noting that it was a robust conversation. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted the Informal Conversation that Councilor Lamb was referring to was a result of the Town Council receiving complaints about illicit behavior and vandalism occurring at the East Drive Park. She stated the Community Relations Committee sent letters and then followed up with flyers to the residents that lived in that area announcing the July 22, 2022 the Informal Conversation, which did result in safety improvements to the East Drive Park, as well as regular police patrols. She noted another Informal Conversation in the Park was held at the Gales Ferry Community Center on November 4, 2024 to address a request for Pickle Ball Courts at Winthrop Park, which was also well attended, noting the Committee again sent letters and flyers to the residents in the area. She stated both these conversations were a result of residents bringing town concerns to the Town Council's attention.

Councilor Parad stated they would like to hear suggestions from the community about the issues they were interested in talking about, instead of the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion telling them where they should be. Councilor Lamb stated that perhaps community groups could invite members of the Town Council to attend their meetings. He stated when you go to their space they were more inclined to open up. Councilor Parad stated that she liked that idea better than Councilor Lamb's first suggestion. Councilor Parad suggested the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion include something in the quarterly Events Magazine to let residents know that they were looking for hot button issues in town.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

6. Discussion regarding the Pride Pizza in the Park (June).

Councilor Brunelle stated the Pride Pizza in the Park would be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Town Green. She stated that she has already put some decorations up at the Town Green. She noted that she would be going to Valentinos to order the food order, and that she would also be going to B.J.'s Wholesale and Costco to pick up additional supplies. She stated that she has lined-up a D.J., a Face Painter, noting that she would be doing the balloons. She noted former Town Council Chairman Naomi Rodriguez provided some financial help to support the event.

Councilor Brunelle noted on June 27, 2026 Mystic was holding their Pride Event. She stated that she would be participating in the Mystic Event, noting that she would be doing the balloons; and that she hoped to get some ideas for next year.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

7. Native America History Month (October).

Councilor Lamb stated he had a successful initial meeting with the Tribe. He noted that some of Tribal Members attended a Historic District Commission meeting; a Conservation Commission meeting; and a Board of Education meeting. He stated that he would be following up with the Tribe to see if they would like to do something with the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

8. Farmers Market Booths to highlight town services.

Councilor Brunelle suggested the Committee remove the Farmers Market Booths from their future agendas, noting the number of initiatives they were addressing on their agenda. She noted that the 2026 Market has begun and their booth spaces were full. She stated that she thought they could get information out using the Ledyard News, rather than have a booth at the Farmers Markets, to only have people walk by.

Councilor Parad noted that she had a Ledyard Education Advancement Fund (LEAF) Tent at the Farmers Market and that no one stopped by her tent. She stated that she had a lot of information to hand out to folks, along with Give-a-Ways, and many other things. She stated the Children's Activities Tent was next to her Tent and still no one came to her Tent.

The Committee agreed by consensus to remove this item from their future agendas.

RESULT: Remove from Agenda

9. Coordinate and Support Town Organizations such as:

- Linda C. Davis Food Pantry
- Citizens Helping Animals in Need (CHAIN)

Councilor Brunelle noted that both the Food Pantry and the CHAIN already do their own social media posts and they conduct fundraisers/food drives, etc.

Councilor Parad stated she was the Social Services Liaison and she noted that the town was supposed to be hiring a part-time Social Services Coordinator.

The Committee agreed by consensus to remove this item from their future agendas.

RESULT: Remove from Agenda

10. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Crossover with Board of Education.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she had not contacted the Board of Education to discuss their Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Program. Councilor Lamb noted that Board of Education Member Mary Harris was the Chairman of their Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee.

RESULT: CONTINUE

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

11. Discuss Homeless Hospitality Center.

Councilor Lamb noted because Councilor Thompson was making a career change that he would take on the action to work on the Homeless Hospitality Center.

Councilor Parad noted that she saw they were planning to develop a Homeless Hospitality Center in Norwich. Councilor Lamb stated the New London Homeless Hospitality Center gave a presentation in Norwich a few months ago. He stated that this would be part of his research.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

12. Discuss Immigrant Community

Councilor Lamb stated although he had some ideas; that after talking with the Immigrant Community they would prefer to lay low for a while.

The Committee agreed by consensus to remove this item from their future agendas.

Councilor Brunelle noted when Councilor Lamb had something to report on that they could add this item back to the Agenda.

RESULT: Remove from Agenda

13. Organizations for those with Disabilities - Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Month.

Councilor Lamb stated United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) had a great operation in the Greater Hartford area. He noted that he planned to visit the Eastern Cerebral Palsy Organization to look into the services they provide. He stated under former Governor Lowell Weicker these Organizations had great programs; however, it seems as though the programming have fallen off a bit.

14. Options to improve Communications - Ledyard Town Council Facebook Page.

Councilor Lamb noted that he served on the *2023 Committee to Review the Budget Process* and he stated that the town does a lot to get information out to the residents. He stated the town had a web site, meeting portal, events magazine, Ledyard News, News Alerts, digital message signs, etc. He stated that residents need to access the information that the town puts out there for them to be part of the community.

Councilor Brunelle suggested during the Town Council meetings that they could remind residents how to sign up for “*Notify Me*” and how to access the information that was being made available to the public.

Councilor Parad stated the Town Council addressed Ms. Nancy Hellekson’s May 5, 2026 email regarding a town Facebook Page at their May 13, 2026 meeting. She noted in researching Ms. Hellekson’s offer to help the town with a Facebook Page the Town Council realized that Ledyard News was available on the town’s web page. She stated while Ms. Hellekson’s offer was very generous that they should be promoting *Ledyard News* because they were all providing information to be posted on *Ledyard News* about things they thought were important to get out to the town. She suggested that they all amplify the message that residents should visit *Ledyard News*.

RESULT: COMPLETED

15. Any Old Business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. America 250 Facebook Page – More Cultural History

Councilor Brunelle stated that Ms. Wendy Hellekson mentioned that the America 250 Facebook Page should have more cultural history. However, she stated that this was something that should be addressed by the America 250 Committee; because they were handling their own Facebook Page.

Councilor Parad noted that Ms. Hellekson was looking for more diverse representation in their history.

Councilor Lamb stated although it was already June, that he would reach out to the Ledyard Historical Society and the Ledyard Historical District Commission, noting that these groups could probably provide a lot of different points from across the spectrum.

RESULT: COMPLETED

2. Joint Board of Education Workshop – Barbecue.

Councilor Lamb suggested they have a Joint Barbecue between the Town Council and Board of Education to get together and build a rapport. He noted because they would all be together that it would need to be an official meeting/workshop, noting that they would not want to have an illegal meeting. He stated that they would first need to find out if the Board of Education was interested, and then provide a couple of dates to consider.

Councilor Parad questioned where they would have the barbecue and whether it would be a potluck, or catered event, etc. Councilor Lamb stated there were some grills at the Town Green; and he suggested they could bring dishes from their cultural backgrounds.

The Committee discussed locations for the barbecue and Councilor Brunelle noted that once they have a date that she would reserve the Town Green for the barbecue.

Councilor Lamb stated that he would contact the Board of Education to see if they were interested in a joint barbeque and to get some potential dates.

Councilor Parad questioned who would set the Agenda. Councilor Brunelle stated that the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion could set the Agenda and that it could be a simple one.

Councilor Brunelle noted the barbeque would be a good opportunity for everyone to get to know each other.

****POST MEETING NOTE: 7/1/2026****

From: Blair, Russell <Russell.Blair@ct.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 10:48 AM

To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

Subject: RE: Town of Ledyard - Question - Informal Gathering

Hi Roxanne,

*I think that could fall under the **exception for a social meeting**, as long as they are not conducting town business at the barbecue. I realize that is likely to be a topic of conversation, but I think its important for board members to understand they can't use this gathering as a replacement for the discussion and votes they'd take at a meeting.*

*(2) "Meeting" means any hearing or other proceeding of a public agency, any convening or assembly of a quorum of a multimember public agency, and any communication by or to a quorum of a multimember public agency, whether in person or by means of electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power. **"Meeting" does not include:** Any*

meeting of a personnel search committee for executive level employment candidates; any chance meeting, or a social meeting neither planned nor intended for the purpose of discussing matters relating to official business; strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; a caucus of members of a single political party notwithstanding that such members also constitute a quorum of a public agency; an administrative or staff meeting of a single-member public agency; and communication limited to notice of meetings of any public agency or the agendas thereof. A quorum of the members of a public agency who are present at any event which has been noticed and conducted as a meeting of another public agency under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act shall not be deemed to be holding a meeting of the public agency of which they are members as a result of their presence at such event.

Russell Blair

Director of Education & Communications
Freedom of Information Commission
860-256-3968
russell.blair@ct.gov

From: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Blair, Russell <Russell.Blair@ct.gov>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Town of Ledyard - Question - Informal Gathering

Good Morning Russell:

I hope your summer is going well.

I have a question as to whether a Barbeque with the members of the Town Council and Board of Education would be considered a meeting.

I appreciate your clarification on this type of informal gathering.

Thank you,
Roxanne

Roxanne M. Maher
Administrative Assistant to
The Ledyard Town Council
(860) 464-3203
council@ledyardct.org

RESULT: CONTINUE

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

3. Discuss the idea of “*Youth Town Councilor*” Program.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she hoped to develop a plan for the Youth Town Councilor Program before school starts this fall.

Councilor Parad questioned how the Board of Education implemented their Student Liaison Program. Councilor Lamb stated School Superintendent Jason Hartling took the lead in setting up the program, and he noted that Mr. Hartling has prep meets with the students before each of the Board of Education’s meetings. He went on to note that initially there was some push back to the idea; however, it was overcome and the program was now embraced by everyone. He stated that this was the second year of the program, noting that the Students attend the Board of Education Meetings and that they were energized and that this energy has now carried over to their Student Government. He stated he thought the Program was one of the most positive adventures the Board of Education established.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she would contact Superintendent Hartling to talk about the process he used to develop the program.

RESULT: CONTINUE

Next Meeting: 7/15/2026 6:30 p.m.

4. Any New Business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Parad moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Brunelle.

VOTE: 3 – 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Brunelle
Committee Chairman
Community Relations Committee