



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Vincent Godino

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 19, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Godino at 7:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner William Barnes
Commissioner Douglas Kelley
Chairman Vincent Godino
Alternate Member Kenneth Geer
Commissioner Earl Lamb
Excused Commissioner Melissa Dyson

Mr. Barnes was late.

Guests:
Kelly Lamb.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Ken Geer was appointed as a voting member.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2023.

Mr. Barnes was not present for the vote.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Douglas Kelley

SECONDER: Earl Lamb

AYE 4 Kelley Godino Geer Lamb

EXCUSED 2 Barnes Dyson

V. FISCAL REPORTS

1. Financial Reports.

Chairman Godino said since it's close to the end of the fiscal year these may be the figures the year ends with. There may be a couple of small POs that go through.

Nathan Lester House - \$7,113.00 spent, \$1762.00 remaining (this does not reflect the PO to repair the threshold).

Sawmill - \$4,547.00 spent, \$2128.00 remaining.

School House - \$1,175.00 was spent on repairs.

Capital remains the same - \$27,000.00. Another \$10,000 was requested. Come the first of July the balance should be \$37,000.

ARPA (NLH) - total budget of \$40,000.00, \$12,574.00 has been spent, remaining is \$27,426.00.

ARPA (Sawmill) - \$4,740 has been spent, \$120,260 is remaining.

Donation (NLH) - Last month the balance was \$449.00. This month the balance is \$14,449.00. This includes the donation from the filming. \$1,000.00 will be given to the Historical Society, \$1,000.00 to the Garden Club and \$1,000.00 to the Caretakers. Chairman Godino believes the checks have already been written. The new balance will be \$11,449.00.

Donation (Sawmill) - Balance is \$5,658.00.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None this month.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee - Mr. Barnes.

A few items were purchased before the end of the fiscal year. Items included a chainsaw and a drill.

Still looking for an updated metal detector but more research is needed.

Chairman Godino added that the invoice submitted for the annual service for Integrated Security was rejected by the Finance Department because it will need to go on a new Fiscal year (FY2024) purchase order.

Mr. Barnes said that he has been in contact with Beth Ackley who assisted with the structural assessment for the Sawmill to get an updated quote for ongoing work. He is eager to get the work started.

Penstock and water tank - During the structural assessment feedback was received on approaches that are historically relevant or accurate. One approach was to do a replacement of the existing tank and inlet made of wood. The Sawmill volunteers spent a lengthy amount of time discussing the associated cost and length of operation of the wooden replacement. It was decided that although it would be great to have a historically accurate replacement it would create a substantial maintenance cost in 15-25 years. Since this apparatus is a fundamental requirement in the operation of the Sawmill a more modern approach using metal and epoxy was preferred by all. The quotes will be received for modern materials. Mr. Barnes asked Chairman Godino if a vote was required. Chairman Godino said since there is no structural change rather a maintenance to extend the life of an apparatus already in place, he did not feel a vote was necessary.

The corner of the Sawmill and the wall around the tail race need attention. Bids will be obtained. Chairman Godino asked if the area of the foundation going down the steps needs to be redone. Mr. Geer replied no.

Mr. Barnes was asked the name of the company used for the security system. It was answered Integrated Security.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Ms. Dyson/Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Kelly said the Nathan Lester House has been busy since the house was opened for tours on Memorial Day. The house was left staged as the Fog of War movie set. Mr. Kelly commented that he thought the amount of attendance was perfect, not too few or too many. There were 70 visitors. Andrea Buka from the Historical Society coordinated getting volunteer docents in advance. The docents received some training.

The volunteers on Memorial Day weekend:
Kristie Lundgren and Richard Lundgren and their son Max Lungren,
Wendy Gulley
Christian Allyn
Lilly Finlayson
Anna Finlayson
Sharon Primmet (Caretaker)
Commisioner Missy Dyson.

Mr. Kelly said the Memorial Day event went very well. He added that the volunteers were very attentive and became experts very quickly.

On the weekend of June 3-4 there were 29 visitors,
On the weekend of June 10-11 there were 17 visitors.
On the weekend of June 17-18 there were 18 visitors.

There was some good feedback received from the visitors.
On June 11th the Historical Society held their annual meeting and potluck. The Society also held

a lecture on "Ledyard during WWII" that evening in the barn.

Thinning of the trees along the entrance road is in process. The goal is to remove all of the trees except the large, nice ones in order to make the rock walls more visible. The garden Club will help with recommending appropriate plantings and natives that will not require a large amount of care.

4th of July event planning - Kit Foster, Rustic Eats Catering and Charlene Rand are interested in the event. Most of the Colonial Era demonstrators contacted are not available for the event. Since the draw right now seems to be the Fog of War movie and because the house is already staged for the WWII time period it was decided to do an Americana theme instead. The grounds will be set up for picnics and children's games. The house will be open for tours.

Chairman Godino would like to get cornhole games custom made with Nathan Lester House and Sawmill pictures on the boards. He will work with Fast signs to get this done before the event.

Mr. Kelly said the feedback received so far consistently proposed that the house remains staged during the time the movie is out in theatres. Possibly even hold an event revolving around the movie such as a showing of the movie. Mr. Kelly said these are great ideas but will involve further planning. Mr. Geer asked where the staging is set up. Mr. Kelly replied, in the house and the barn. The main barn is staged as an artist studio, the front of the barn towards the garage is the game room with hanging animal skins. Inside the house the parlor, the keeping room, the front hall and the two upstairs bedrooms are also staged. The carpenter shed is staged as a farm workers cottage. Mr. Kelly said it would not make sense to restage back to the Colonial period during tour season. He thought it may be best to wait but he suggested asking the Historical Society to weigh in on the decision. The movie is slated to be in theaters during early spring of 2024.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Research/Preservation - Mr. Lamb.

The Spicer ruins now have a State assigned number. Mr. Lamb will take some pictures of the ruins to be placed in a joint presentation with the Conservation Commission. The presentation will be passed to the Tri-Town.

Mr. Lamb attended the June 11, Historical Society meeting. He spoke with Jill Foster about the Schoolhouse. Chairman Godino said he invited her to attend Historic meetings.

Mr. Lamb is now part of the Historical Society. Mr. Lamb will be training with Ms. Buka to be part of research and preservation at the Bill Library.

There needs to be an electronic copy of the NLH tool and donor book.

Mr. Lamb talked with Mayor Allyn III about apple grafting and planting trees at the NLH, he was in favor of this idea.

Signs - need to ask Ms. Dyson what background color she wants for the NLH sign. Standard

green? Choose border? There are also 3 choices of occupations for the original owner.

Possibility of signs for the old white Geer house from 1769 and an old house on Spicer Hill Road (referred to as the "nine-mile house").

Still working on getting permission from GOSHA for Lambtown park. Sign is ready.

Rogerine research is ongoing.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Center School - Mr. Geer.

Mr. Geer said the school looks great. He added that someone did a nice planting job near the mulch, he asked who it was, but no one knew for sure. Perhaps the Garden Club?

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Social Media - Ms. Dyson.

Mr. Kelly reported that there was a post for the Nathan Lester House that drew a few visitors. Some people have asked for pictures to be posted, hoping to do so. There will be an advertisement for the 4th of July event. Posting that the NLH is available for events should be considered. Possibly a NLH Instagram account too.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible vote to cancel the Commission's July and August meetings.

Chairman Godino said that the Commission cancels the July and August meetings each year however if something important comes up he can always call a special meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: William Barnes

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 5 Barnes Kelley Godino Geer Lamb

EXCUSED 1 Dyson

2. Any Other New Business to come before the Commission.

Kelly Lamb may be interested in volunteering on the Commission. Chairman Godino said she should fill out an application since there are two openings. He said to contact Roxanne Mayer. Mr. Lamb added that Victoria Ericson may be interested as well.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Earl Lamb

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 5 Barnes Kelley Godino Geer Lamb

EXCUSED 1 Dyson

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