

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Roxanne Maher  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 3:42 AM  
**To:** nemmrac@netscape.net; april@aprilkneadsdough.com; Kevin J. Dombrowski  
**Cc:** Allison Troy; Bill Thorne; Ellin Grenger (egrenger@gmail.com); Pam Ball; Roxanne Maher; Sarah Martic; Naomi Rodriguez  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Ordinance Farmers Market - Request Legal Review

<b>Tracking:</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Read</b>
	nemmrac@netscape.net	
	april@aprilkneadsdough.com	
	Kevin J. Dombrowski	
	Allison Troy	
	Bill Thorne	
	Ellin Grenger (egrenger@gmail.com)	
	Pam Ball	
	Roxanne Maher	
	Sarah Martic	
	Naomi Rodriguez	Read: 12/23/2023 11:48 PM

Hello Administration Committee:

Please see the legal opinion below regarding the proposed *Ordinance Establishing a Ledyard Farmers Market Committee*.

Based on the Attorney's comments the following language regarding "Friends of the Market" will have to be removed:

***"In addition, the Farmers Market Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of the Committee, select and engage "Friends of the Market" who may not be electors of the town. "Friends of the Market" may attend and participate in Committee meetings, and at the Markets. Friends of the Market shall not have any voting rights or carry any weight or influence the decisions of the Committee."***

I will prepare an updated Draft Ordinance to remove this language for your review and consideration for the January 10, 2024 Meeting.

Thank you,  
Roxanne

Roxanne M. Maher



*Administrative Assistant to  
the Ledyard Town Council  
(860) 464-3203  
council@ledyardct.org*

**Town Hall Hours:**  
**Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**  
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**From:** Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:43 AM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Ordinance Farmers Market - Request Legal Review

Roxanne,

Please see below from the Town Attorney.

Regards,  
Kristen

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**From:** Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:24 PM  
**To:** Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Ordinance Farmers Market - Request Legal Review

Thanks, Kristen.

Mayor – I think this proposal has a few issues.

For starters, the ability to “attend and participate” in committee meetings is essentially being an ad hoc member of the committee. An ad hoc member is still a member of the committee and you need to comply with the Town Charter and state law in that regard (including minority representation).

I think there is a far simpler way to approach this – they should reduce the size to 5 members and simply invite the public/interested farmers to attend their meetings. At each meeting they can have “Public Discussion” on the agenda and committee members and anyone from the public can discuss various matters. This informal approach meets their goals and avoids any state law or Charter issues.

I also question the ability of the Committee to “invite” (i.e. appoint) any members since that authority also rests with the Town Council.

Let me know your thoughts please. Thanks, Matt



**Matthew D. Ritter**  
Shipman & Goodwin LLP  
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*Shipman & Goodwin LLP is a 2022 Mansfield Certified Plus Firm*

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**From:** Kristen Chapman <[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:06 AM  
**To:** Ritter, Matthew D. <[MRitter@goodwin.com](mailto:MRitter@goodwin.com)>  
**Cc:** Fred Allyn, III <[mayor@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayor@ledyardct.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Ordinance Farmers Market - Request Legal Review

**\*EXTERNAL EMAIL\***

Good morning Matt,

We are working to create a new Ordinance governing The Ledyard Farmers Market Committee. We are seeking a Legal opinion to allow for “Friends of the Market” in regards to Chapter IV; Section 9 of the Town Charter and Connecticut General Statute 9-167a. Minority Representation. Please let me know if you require any further information from the Town.

Kind Regards,  
Kristen

*Kristen Chapman*



Executive Assistant to the Mayor/  
Social Services Coordinator  
Town of Ledyard  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
860-464-3222  
[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)

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**From:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 9:20 AM

**To:** Kristen Chapman <[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)>

**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>; Pam Ball <[kpsoap@earthlink.net](mailto:kpsoap@earthlink.net)>; Fred Allyn, III <[mayor@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayor@ledyardct.org)>; Carmen Garcia Irizarry <[CGIri@ledyardct.org](mailto:CGIri@ledyardct.org)>; [nemmrac@netscape.net](mailto:nemmrac@netscape.net); [april@aprilkneadsdough.com](mailto:april@aprilkneadsdough.com); Kevin J. Dombrowski <[KJDom@ledyardct.org](mailto:KJDom@ledyardct.org)>; Naomi Rodriguez <[NaomiR@ledyardct.org](mailto:NaomiR@ledyardct.org)>; Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>

**Subject:** Draft Ordinance Farmers Market - Request Legal Review

Good Morning Kristen:

As you are aware we are working to help the Farmers Market Committee continue their work by addressing some of the issues they have been faced with in trying to have a quorum at their meetings and in having volunteers help them to put-on the Farmers Market each week from June thru September, which has been drawing over 1,200 each week.

The Committee involves a lot of hands-on work and after Committee Members/Volunteers experience the commitment and the amount of work involved some stop showing up at meetings.

In trying to help alleviate this issue we will be changing their Membership from nine (9) Regular Members

To five (5) Regular Members and four (4) Alternate Members; which would make having a quorum more obtainable.

In addition, there are Farmers from neighboring communities that are interested and would be of help to the Ledyard Farmers Market Committee. However, per Chapter IV; Section 9 of the Town Charter: *"Members of Town Committees/Commissions shall be electors of the Town"*. (see attached)

Therefore, we are looking to provide for **"Friends of the Market"** who **may not** be electors of the Town, and would like to include the following language in the Ordinance to allow for this idea.

***"In addition, the Farmers Market Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of the Committee, select and engage "Friends of the Market" who may not be electors of the town. "Friends of the Market" may attend and participate in Committee meetings, and at the Markets. Friends of the Market shall not have any voting rights or carry any weight or influence the decisions of the Committee."***

The Farmers Market Committee is not trying to circumvent the Town Charter but would like to have the ability to increase their Volunteer Workforce to help with putting on the weekly

Farmers' Markets, which has become a fantastic event, being listed in the Connecticut Magazine as being in the Top Three Farmers Market in the State.

Could you please forward this language (see attached draft Ordinance 9/27/2023) to the Town Attorney for their review and legal opinion/recommendation. The language of most concern is as follows: *or carry any weight or influence the decisions of the Committee.* The Committee believes that "**Friends of the Market**" being involved in the Committee discussions would be of help in identifying areas for improvement that they may come across during the Markets. However, all the decisions would be made by the appointed (electors of the town) Farmers' Market Committee.

Thanks so much for your assistance,

Roxanne

*Roxanne M. Maher*



*Administrative Assistant to  
the Ledyard Town Council*

*(860) 464-3203*

*[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)*

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