



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Garstka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Community-at-Large Representative Michael E. Marelli
Alternate Member- Community-at-Large William Thorne
Chairman-Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community Russell Holmberg

Excused Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas

Town Councilor Naomi Rodriguez was also present.

William Thorne and Steve Martic were appointed as voting members.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission members.

Mr. Marelli commented on the site walk of the Spicer Ruins on the Clarke Farm property. He felt the walk highlighted the interests that the Agricultural, Conservation and Historical Commissions have in preserving the parcel. Chairman Garstka, who also attended the walk thought it was a welcome example of cooperation between the various Town Commissions.

Mr. Thorne reported that the State was requiring the Ledyard Farm's Market Committee to attend a mandatory seminar in order to be certified as a State recognized farmers' market and to participate in the WIC program. Mr. Holmberg explained that farmers' markets must meet certain guidelines in order to obtain State recognition as such. The guidelines were developed to help benefit the agricultural and general community.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting minutes from April 18, 2023, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 5 Marelli Thorne Garstka Martic Holmberg

EXCUSED 2 Angelini Yuhas

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. CT Farm Bureau April Newsletter.

CT Farm Bureau is seeking donations for their lobbying efforts at the CT State House. It was discussed that if individuals wanted to contribute it was their decision. It was agreed that the Commission should not be spending Town funds on this effort. Mr. Marelli suggested that a letter should be sent to the Town's State representatives expressing concerns of the points made in the Farm Bureau's newsletter.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Assess what the Commission has already done and where to go in the future.

In assessing what the Commission has already done and where to go in the future numerous examples of the Commission's progress were noted.

For the future, it was suggested:

Reach out to the Town's High School's Vocational Agricultural program and inquire if they feel there may be areas or interest that the Commission could cooperate on.

Attend the Agricultural Commission meetings of the surrounding towns to gain ideas and new insights.

Ask the Town to provide some members of the Agricultural Commission with ID cards to help identify the Commission members when visiting different agricultural shareholders to meet and speak with them.

Reach out to the general public to explain the benefits of preserving agriculture in the town. Chairman Garstka has been invited to speak to the Ledyard Rotary Club.

Hold an informational booth at one of the Town Farmer's markets.

Continue reaching out to the other Town Committees and Commissions.

Begin to explore local/town funding options for preserving agricultural enterprises in Ledyard.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:46 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 5 Marelli Thorne Garstka Martic Holmberg

EXCUSED 2 Angelini Yuhas

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