



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman  
Mike Marelli

#### Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, February 10, 2026

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

**Present** Commissioner Barbara Kil  
Commissioner Dave Cohen  
Commissioner Roberta Levandoski  
Commissioner Betsy Graham  
Chairman Michael E. Marelli

**Excused** Commissioner Kathleen Edgecomb

**Late** Vice Chair James Harwood

Also in attendance:  
Ty Lamb, Town Councilor.  
Karen Parkinson.

Both Betsy Graham and Karen Parkinson were present via Zoom.

#### II. ROLL CALL

#### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025, as written.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** Barbara Kil

**AYE** 5 Kil Cohen Levandoski Graham Marelli

**EXCUSED** 1 Edgecomb

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

- The Commission received letters from Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc.

- Connecticut Land Conservation will hold its Annual Workshops on March 21, 2026 at Wesleyan University. Ms. Graham attended last year and is willing to attend again this year. The

Commission will discuss paying the registration fee under new business.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 1. Public Comments.

Councilor Lamb introduced himself and expressed his interest in highlighting the Commission's projects before the Town Council. Commissioners gave brief outlines of the Commission's work in progress. Councilor Lamb also suggests that the Commission explores Town Council Funding for Requests for Capital Major Projects.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

## VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 1. Informational items.

- Town Council voted to transfer remaining funds from last year back into the Commission's account.

- Councilor Lamb suggested that during budget time next year the Commission should think about capital improvement, equipment, storage, trail maintenance and operational money to remove trees.

- Chairman Marelli said that Avalonia had recently hired a company that does invasive plant removal. They track the time of year, type of treatment and effectiveness to create an effective plan. Mr. Cohen said he had seen signs along the road advertising companies that do invasive removal. He will try to get more information.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Property Walks.

There is too much snow to do walks.

### 2. Financial Reports.

General Fund - \$2562.00

Trail Maintenance - \$12,540.00

White-Hall Fund - \$18,440.00

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

### 3. Pollinator Pathways Project continued.

Councilor Lamb is interested in establishing more Pollinator Gardens in other Historic Properties within Town. He has interest in sites controlled by the Historic District Commission. Ms. Graham shared the Conservation Commission history with establishing many gardens in

Town. Perhaps the Commission can share resources and volunteers. There is the possibility to create a map of all the Pollinator Pathways in Town to create more interest was suggested. Ms. Graham shared a link to register pathways.

<https://www.pollinator-pathways.org>

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

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

None.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. POCD

Chairman Marelli has been rereading recommendations in the POCD that he made in 2015 and then again in 2019. Some of which will need reviewing and updating, such as the recommendation he made regarding the riparian buffers tying into Mystic River Watershed Protection idea.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

2. Ledyard Trails Task Force.

Ms. Kil spoke with Tom Olson, a Vice President from Groton Tri-Town Trail and a member of the Groton Trails Task Force. Many groups and organizations have overlapping interests. Mr. Olsen suggested reaching out to initial stakeholders in Ledyard.

Nathan Lester House: Resident Keeper Victoria Ericson [Nathanlesterhousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:Nathanlesterhousemuseum@gmail.com)  
<<mailto:Nathanlesterhousemuseum@gmail.com>>

GOSA: Dan O'Connell stewardship trails at [lynndano927@gmail.com](mailto:lynndano927@gmail.com)  
<<mailto:lynndano927@gmail.com>>

AVALONIA: Tobias Glaza-Director Stewardship at [tglaza@avaloniaic.org](mailto:tglaza@avaloniaic.org)  
<<mailto:tglaza@avaloniaic.org>>

TTT: Tom Olson VP Groton at [tfolson@comcast.net](mailto:tfolson@comcast.net);Karen  
<<mailto:tfolson@comcast.net>;Karen> Parkinson Pres at [karen@thepaddockinc.com](mailto:karen@thepaddockinc.com)  
<<mailto:karen@thepaddockinc.com>>

Ledyard Parks and Recreation Hike Ledyard - Chairperson Parkinson spoke of her vision for what a Trails Group could accomplish. Coordinating National and State Trails Days, work with zoning to create open space areas for trails around new subdivisions. Establishing ways to preserve Stone Walls on Town Properties. Stonington and North Stonington are thinking about an ordinance that would protect stonewalls. Suggestions for ways to create interest to form this new group and draw people in were discussed. Perhaps a version of Hike Ledyard called "Hike New London County".

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**3.** Mystic River Watershed Protection.

Mystic River Watershed Protection - Ms. Graham Betsy had not received responses from two grant applications. She updated Ty Lamb on the invasive hydrilla in Lantern Hill and Bush Pond State Boat launches. The Commission has attempted to get money for treating aquatic invasive plant hydrilla as a line item on the town budget. A permit would be needed to treat invasives with herbicides.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**4.** Any Other New Business to come before the Commission.

The Commission decided to hold a vote to pay for the registration fee for Betsey Graham to attend the Connecticut Land Conservation workshop on March 21,2026. Amount not to exceed \$200.00. Chairman Marelli told Ms. Graham to ask Christina Hostetler, Town Hall Assistant to create a purchase order.

Motion to APPROVE payment of up to \$200 for the Connecticut Land Conservation workshop registration fee.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** Barbara Kil

**AYE** 5 Kil Cohen Levandoski Graham Marelli

**EXCUSED** 1 Edgecomb

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** Barbara Kil

**AYE** 5 Kil Cohen Levandoski Graham Marelli

**EXCUSED** 1 Edgecomb

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