



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vidal at 4:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Alternate Member Vincent Godino
 Committee Member Martha Reynolds
 Chairman William Vidal III
 Committee Member Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Excused Alternate Member Paul Krug

Absent Alternate Member Kimlyn Marshall
 Committee Member Jessica Staley

Also in attendance:
Resident Jim Hagen, 14 Windward Lane.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Mr. Godino was appointed as a voting member.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED
MOVER: Martha Reynolds
SECONDER: Vincent Godino

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren
EXCUSED 1 Krug
ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

V. FISCAL REPORT

1. Fiscal Report.

Opening balance; \$2000.00. Veterans' flags have been purchased at a cost of \$817. The Committee discussed using the remaining funds for stone restoration and printing the updated

Ledyard CT Historic Cemetery Inscriptions book. Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren asked if fundraising may be possible for more expensive items such as Veteran medallions and cemetery maintenance. Mr. Godino noted a separate account would need to be created for donations and must be kept separate from the Town budget.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. COMMITTEES

1. Flags.

Ms. Reynolds has been diligently researching and compiling new lists of all the Veterans' graves within the active and inactive cemeteries. Flags have been purchased and will be distributed to committee members by Ms. Reynolds once she has completed creating their flagging assignments. Chairman Vidal has suggested updating the Town's official website annually to help keep track of new Veteran burials for future flag placement events. Mr. Godino stated he may have medallions available if they are needed during flag replacement. Ms. Reynolds will also hand out a diagram on proper flagging procedures.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

Mr. Godino has provided the Committee with a complete list of cemetery adopters. The Committee will assess the conditions of the cemeteries in the spring while replacing flags. Adopters will be contacted to determine if maintenance assistance is required. If so, the Committee will offer to coordinate a work party for cleanup or find a replacement if an adopter is no longer able to volunteer. The Bailey Cemetery needs an adopter. Chairman Vidal stated that while visiting the cemetery, he spoke to a nearby resident who showed interest in possibly helping to maintain it. No further information was given on the potential adopter, Chairman Vidal will follow up. Mr. Hagen, resident of Ledyard, has attended the meeting and graciously offered to help with cemeteries in need of maintenance.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Veterans.

Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren shared a finding at the Joseph Stanton cemetery. The grave of Mr. Harold Allan Williams, a Korean War Veteran, has a medallion and no flag and needs to be added to the list of Veterans.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ROW - Right of Way continued.

Right of Ways will be inspected during flag replacement.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Cemetery Book update.

Chairman Vidal has provided the committee with a sample printing of the updated cemetery book. The book includes color photos, updated maps, the physical state of the gravestones, and detailed indexes of Veterans and graves. Chairman Vidal believes initially printing 50 copies will be sufficient. He plans to donate several to the local libraries, historical societies, and adopters. Mr. Godino suggests using the remaining funds to pay for printing. Mr. Vidal III will continue researching printing costs and report back with cost estimates.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren has been working with the Ledyard Historical Society and Rediscovering History, Inc. to further research the graves of enslaved people, Cesar (Lymas) and Dinah, located within the Christopher Avery Cemetery. Mr. Hagen attended the meeting and provided a copy of his own research and shared knowledge on the subject. The Committee is supportive in exploring ways to memorialize Cesar and Dinah. Ms. Gardiner-Lundgren will move forward with exploring funding options to provide the cemetery with a marker to acknowledge the graves.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program.

Discussion and possible vote to submit application for grant.

Motion to APPROVE submittal of Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program application.

The Committee discussed the grant process and the need for extra funds to help with restoration of headstones and grounds maintenance. Mr. Godino expressed the desire to focus on restoring, up-righting, and cleaning stones. Removing dead trees is also a main concern for long term preservation.

Motion to APPROVE recommendation of Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program application to Town Council.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds

SECONDER: Vincent Godino

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

2. Election of Officers-
Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson

Secretary

Ms. Reynolds said that the Officers currently in place are doing a very good job.

Chairperson / Treasurer: Mr. William Vidal III

Vice-Chairperson / Secretary: Ms. Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Official votes will take place during the next meeting on April 8, 2025.

3. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

Chairman Vidal suggested moving the Committee meeting time from 4:00pm to 9:00am. The Committee will add the proposed schedule change to the next agenda on April 8, 2025.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular meeting at 5:53 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

SECONDER: Martha Reynolds

AYE 4 Godino Reynolds Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

The next Committee meeting is on April 8, 2025.

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