



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman  
Mike Marelli

#### Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, October 8, 2024

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marelli at 6:40 p.m.

Note - due to technical difficulties the meeting started late and without a recording.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present**     Commissioner Roberta Levandoski  
                  Commissioner James Harwood  
                  Commissioner Betsy Graham  
                  Commissioner Barbara Kil  
                  Commissioner Michael E. Marelli  
                  Commissioner Dave Cohen  
**Excused**     Commissioner Kathleen Edgecomb

David Cohen was appointed as a voting member.

#### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024, as written.

**RESULT:**     APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:**     Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** Dave Cohen

**AYE**            6     Levandoski Harwood Graham Kil Marelli Cohen

**EXCUSED**     1     Edgecomb

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

- Jeff Kent, White Hall plan will be discussed in Property Walks.

- Pullman & Comley letter - Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC proposal for a solar array in Stonington on Lantern Hill Road, abutting Whitford Brook. Will be discussed in New Business.

- The State of Connecticut released proposed updates to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for 2025-2035.

- The 2025-2035 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is open for public comment. This discussion will be held for the next meeting.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **1. Public Comments.**

None present.

## **VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **1. Informational items.**

- SECCOG Conservation plan - Chairman Marelli reported difficulty entering the Commission's input online. He noted that and learned that Helen Zincavage from SECCOG watched the LCC video for the Commission's input.
- Ledyard GIS Mapping will be down for the next month, but SECCOG has public GIS access.
- The Wood-Pawcatuck Scenic River Grant is not applicable to Ledyard.
- The Sweet Meadows project plan has been temporarily withdrawn due to technicalities in mapping the wetlands. The wetland boundaries will be remarked correctly to resubmit a revised plan.
- Discussed Avalonia considering an Open Space grant application for the property at 173/175 Stoddard Wharf Rd as a potential connector between Kettle Hole and Glacier Park. It also offers a second option for the TriTown Trail path.
- Kent & Frost is still working on the concept of the Tri-Town Trail through the Groton Utility property.
- Waterfest 2024 was held on September 21, 2024, and well attended.
- October 1, 2024, was the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed Planners Convening at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum.
- Chairman Marelli announced that he has applied and been accepted for a position on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Property Walks.**

Conservation Commission members joined Avalonia members for a walk-through Burton Park to the adjoining Avalonia Pike-Marshall Preserve, clearing the wetland causeway to improve connectivity between the two properties.

Mr. Harwood proposed that each Commission member be assigned to one of the Commission properties to monitor at least monthly for blown down branches/trees and blocked trails:

White Hall Preserve - Mr. Harwood

Burton Park - Ms. Kil

Glacier Park - Mr. Cohen

Kettle Hole - Mr. Harwood

Rain gardens monitored by Ms. Levandoski and Ms. Graham.

### **2. Financial Reports.**

No changes. Chairman Marelli will contact Ian Stammel, Town Treasurer regarding obtaining an updated White Hall Budget report.

3. Pollinator Pathways Project continued.

Ms. Graham discussed that the project is being stalled. Scott Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director is waiting for a survey for the Planning and Zoning application showing the critical features (parking, pavilion, boat launch, wetlands). Ms. Graham has been in touch with Liz Burdick, Planning Director, who is working with Mr. Johnson on this application. The Commission discussed the care of potted plants over the winter and the need to get the plants into the ground by April 1st.

4. Field Clearing at White-Hall Property.

Chairman Marelli is still exploring options for field mowing.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Vote on the Conservation Committee 2025 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule.

No holidays to factor in except Veterans Day, which Commissioners indicated was not an issue.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Michael E. Marelli

**SECONDER:** James Harwood

**AYE** 6 Levandoski Harwood Graham Kil Marelli Cohen

**EXCUSED** 1 Edgecomb

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

Greenskies Solar Farm Project.

Green Skies Solar Farm project - this project is in Stonington along Lantern Hill Rd farm fields, which border the Whitford Brook/ Ledyard Town line. The Conservation Commission has no apparent concerns. Chairman Marelli will follow up with IWWC and the Town Planning Director.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:23 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Betsy Graham

**SECONDER:** Dave Cohen

**AYE** 6 Levandoski Harwood Graham Kil Marelli Cohen

**EXCUSED** 1 Edgecomb

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