



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Ty Lamb

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lamb at 7:00 p.m.

Due to technical difficulties the meeting was not recorded.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Douglas Kelley
Chairperson Ty Lamb
Commissioner Kelly Lamb
Commissioner Ammie Chittim
Commissioner Karen Parkinson
Alternate Alternate Member Vincent Godino
Alternate Member Kenneth Geer
Commissioner Rebecca Watford

Also in attendance was Bill Barnes, Town Councilor.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

None.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ty Lamb

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 5 Kelley Lamb Lamb Chittim Parkinson

VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Bill Barnes.

Bill Barnes, Town Councilor, said he will discuss the Spicer Ruins later on in the meeting.

VII. CHAIRMAN REPORT

1. General Report.

Ms. Chittim approached Ms. Watford regarding brochure updating. Ms. Chittim will look at the old one and work with Ms. Watford on the updates.

The Commission will justify the needs and usage of capital funds to the Town and will help convey the Commission's vision.

The Sawmill used ARPA funds to have the stonework repaired. The head gate doesn't close completely due to a possible leak.

Chairman Lamb asked the Committee Leads to think about the top three projects for next year to discuss during next month's meeting.

Spicer Project - Liz Buhler, Town Planner, said the next step would be to have a second conversation with Mayor Fred Allyn, III, Land Use, Ms. Parkinson and possibly a Town Councilor. Bill Barnes, Town Councilor, attended the last Land Use meeting and discussed the Spicer project. The original survey was for only an acre, and a second survey needs to be completed to expand the acreage, however Ms. Parkinson said the State statute only requires a map, not another survey. Councilor Barnes felt that Ms. Buhler would be a good conduit going forward.

Chairman Lamb listed the multitude of projects the Commission has completed and suggested having a meeting to show the Town what the Commission has been working on, possibly during the fall festival. The Commissioners agreed.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Financial Report.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee.

The Sawmill alarm system continually needs to be called in and shut down because of false reports. Chairman Lamb is questioning whether the sensor needs adjusting. Councilor Barnes mentioned that in the summer birds seem to be the main culprit of false alarms. Chairman Lamb will get to know the alarm system better with assistance from Mr. Ganong who is the best

resource.

Mr. Ganong has given Chairman Lamb his Capital project list.

Mr. Godino is putting together a summary of the dam project. Mr. Godino's son has volunteered his time in the estimation of the project.

Mr. Godino discussed Beth Ackley's report with Mr. Gonang. There is work that needs to be done on the corner and a shed is under consideration. Chairman Lamb said it needs to be discussed if these projects will be a part of this year's budget or next year's capital.

There were questions from the Town on the Commission's long-standing contractors. Chairman Lamb mentioned the possibility of creating standing service contracts.

Mr. Godino asked if the ARPA project has been signed for payment since there is still a report due to finalize the project that needs to be submitted to Department of Environmental Protection.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley gave his August report:

The Museum held an Art Week in late July, combining several educational events with a visit from landscape artist and educator, Justin Roxo. Justin demonstrated as he painted a view of the Lester House and barns. This painting is being donated by the artist to the Museum.

Our other focus at the Lester House this past month has been on maintenance and long-term planning.

The Graves-Hill family materials mentioned last month have shed light on several questions we have had regarding the structure on the ell, as well as on individual features of the house. This information will help inform future restoration projects, as well as interpretation of the house to the public.

Continuing major projects include clearing the fields immediately behind the house and Great Oak Garden. So far this has all been with volunteer help. The invasive Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) have been cut down, reducing their spread as well as depriving Japanese Lantern Fly of that favored food source. A possible lightning strike to a major tree in that field sent much of it into the back of the garden, doing substantial damage. Removal has been handled by volunteers.

Another large tree limb came down soon after into the exit drive, and Public Works quickly handled removal the same day as notified.

Members of the Ledyard Cemetery Committee staged a cleanup of the path to the Lester Cemetery and a cleanup of the cemetery itself.

Wrought iron railings have been added and installed at the side entrance to the Great Oak

Garden. These augment the new railings the Garden Club installed at the main entrance and follow the same design. This is a donation to the Museum and Garden. A design for a coordinating gate is being considered.

Work in the new museum office is largely complete, and donated office furniture and equipment is being moved in.

We have met again with our long-term partners from the Ledyard Historical Society and Ledyard Garden Club to clarify and solidify those partnerships. The Garden Club held a workday this past Saturday, and a group supporting their Hope Garden toured the fields behind the house with our director. They are in planning stages for the move of the Hope Garden to the Lester House, which will be one phase of the redevelopment of the two back fields into appropriate new use.

A draft for proposed events rates has been submitted to town officials. A copy will follow separately. Though rates have been approved, contract language is under review. We are exploring best methods to handle this income stream, donations, and our planned gift shop, where we will be able to offer items for the Historical Society and any other merchandise we are able to manage.

Several new volunteers have come on board, and are already helping to make a difference in our grounds.

Upcoming events include Trail Renewal Day on 9/13 and Fall Festival on 9/27. Please share our flyer attached as you are able.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.

Ms. Chittim had a discussion with the CGA Curator about putting together a coalition of museums and sharing of displays. It was suggested that a copy of the fall festival flyer is sent to them for possible participation.

Chairman Lamb and Ms. Chittim spoke with the Mashantucket Tribe about the Great Oak initiatives and how to be better partners.

Mr. Godino said that the Mashantucket Tribe used to maintain a Ledyard Cemetery but stopped due to financial reasons. The Committee is trying to find an adopter.

Ms. Parkinson added another thought on Spicer Ruins; she said that the stone walls surrounding the homestead should be preserved. She added that she would like all Ledyard Stone walls preserved as part of the Commission's vision. Chairman Lamb will gather information on working with homeowners to preserve stone walls. Possible ordinances with adjacent towns.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Center School - Mr. Geer.

There will be a Back to School Bash at the Center School on Saturday August 24, 2025 from

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ms. Watford, Eddie Lamb, Mr. Geer, Chairman Lamb and Helen Burton will participate in the event.

Mr. Geer made the Commissioners aware that the School's chalk board would not be hanging on the wall.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.

There were 197 followers and 1277 views for the month of July. The Nathan Lester House Museum Facebook Page has grown to 117 in the last 2 months.

Ms. Lamb asked the Commissioners to continue to post pictures of the Commission's historical sites and Historical sites around town. Ms. Lamb asked if anyone has anything to contribute to please send it to her.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Watford said that there used to be a set of Great Oak Books at the Nathan Lester House that seems to be missing. The books have not been seen since 2022. Chairman Lamb asked Mr. Watford if she has any pictures of them. Chairman Lamb will ask the Historical Society if they borrowed them or have seen them in the past few years.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:29 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Douglas Kelley

SECONDER: Ammie Chittim

AYE 5 Kelley Lamb Lamb Chittim Parkinson

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