



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Garstka at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Farming Community Michael E. Marelli
Excused Alternate Member Steve Martic
Alternate Farming Community William Thorne
Late Farming Community Russell Holmberg

Mr. Thorne was present via Zoom.

Mr. Thorne was appointed as a voting member until Mr. Holmberg arrived at 6:03 p.m.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

None.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Martic

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka met with Mayor Allyn III regarding Clark Farm. Mayor Allyn III suggested that the Commission writes a letter to Town Council with what the Commission would like to see happen to the parcel. Having the fields mowed, even to a farmer for a no cost lease, would save the Town money in maintenance costs and help maintain the property. Its possible Bill Geer will take over part of the haying to assist with the current lease.

The Commission could suggest to Town Council that the Commission takes the lead on this property and would need to develop criteria for eligibility. Ideally the Commission would have a lease in place by next spring. Chairman Garstka suggested a 5-year lease agreement, insurance required, to a Ledyard resident with the highest bid.

Mr. Thorne clarified that there are two parcels and asked about the easement for the power lines. It is prime agricultural property.

Chairman Garstka said he would reach out to Town Council. Chairman Marelli suggested reaching out to Councilor Dombrowski. The next Town Council meeting is next week (August 27).

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka asked if anyone on the AG Committee would like to be a representative on the Ledyard 250 Committee? It meets on the second Tuesday of the month during the afternoon. Mr. Thorne said he is potentially interested and will talk to the Kristen Chapman, Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:23 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 5 Angelini Yuhas Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Martic

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