



Chairman Gary St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD

CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - ANNEX BUILDING
HYBRID FORMAT

DRAFT

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

6:00 PM; JULY 8, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman St. Vil called to order the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. regarding a proposed “*An Ordinance Establishing a Town of Ledyard Code of Ethics And Ethics Commission*”
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. PROCEDURE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman St. Vil welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the members of the Town Council and the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website – Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

Chairman St. Vil provided an overview of the procedure of the Public Hearing, and he asked those attending remotely to put their name and address in the “Chat” and that they would be called upon during the Public Comment portion of tonight’s meeting.

- IV. CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The following call of the Public Hearing was read by Town Council Administrative Assistant Roxanne M. Maher:

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF LEDYARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Ledyard Town Council will conduct a Hybrid Format Public Hearing
(In-Person & Video Conference)
on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
to receive comments/recommendations regarding a Proposed

“*An Ordinance Establishing a Town of Ledyard Code of Ethics
And Ethics Commission*”

Please join the Public Hearing in-person or remotely as follows:

In-person attendance will be at the
Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, Connecticut

Please join the video conference meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at:
<https://ledyardct.zoom.us/j/81123417593?pwd=a8N5mrEauoryd8an3zeEbsSWbpMVMA.1>
or by audio only dial: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 811 2341 7593; Passcode: 282751

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications
will be accepted at towncouncil@ledyardct.org.

Dated at Ledyard, Connecticut this 26th day of June, 2026

For the Ledyard Town Council
s/s Gary St. Vil, Chairman

Please Publish on Monday, June 29, 2026

V. PRESENTATIONS

Chairman St Vil called upon Administration Committee Chairman Councilor Garcia-Irizarry to present the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated tonight was the fourth Public Hearing the Town Council has held regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance; noting the following Public Hearing dates: September 24, 2025; November 10, 2025; March 25, 2026; and tonight, July 8, 2026.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry proceeded by reviewing each of the revisions to the proposed Ethics Ordinance as presented in draft dated May 13, 2026 noted below. She explained the revisions noted in *blue italic font* were primarily to provide additional clarification; and that the Town Attorney has reviewed them.

DRAFT: ~~April 8, 2026~~ 05/13/2026 Ordinance # _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A
TOWN OF LEDYARD CODE OF ETHICS AND ETHICS COMMISSION

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Ledyard:

Section 1. Authority.

In accordance with Chapter III of the Town Charter, there is hereby established a Town of Ledyard Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy and Purpose.

The trust of the public is essential for government to function effectively. The proper operation of the Town government requires that Town and Board of Education officials, employees and consultants be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that governmental decision and policies be made in the proper channels of governmental structure; that public office and employment not be used for beneficial and/or financial interest; and that the public has confidence in the integrity of its government.

Section 3. Definitions

As used in this ordinance, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings indicated below:

“Agency” is any board, commission, authority or committee of the Town, including the Town Council and Board of Education.

“Beneficial interest” means any nonfinancial interest or special treatment that is not common to other citizens of the Town.

“Business day” means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day in which the office of the Ledyard Town Clerk is closed to the public for business.

“Complainant” means a person who files a complaint under penalties of false statement against an official, employee or consultant containing an allegation of prohibited activities under the Code of Ethics.

“Confidential Information” means information acquired by a Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant in the course of and by reason of performing an individual’s official duties and which is not a matter of public record or public knowledge.

“Consultant” means (i) an attorney hired by the Town or the Board of Education to provide legal services; (ii) any engineer, architect or construction manager hired by the Town or the Board of Education to provide professional services related to construction projects; or (iii)

any professional who is hired by the Town to provide professional advice or services related to land use matters. In addition, the definition of what constitutes a consultant shall be limited to an officer or an employee of any Town or Board of Education contractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a Town or Board of Education contract.

“Employee” is any person receiving a salary, wages or a stipend from the Town or Board of Education for services rendered, whether full-time or part-time.

“Family” means the spouse, domestic partner, fiancé, fiancée, parents, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, stepchildren, foster children, siblings and their children, stepsiblings and their children, and foster siblings and their children, of an official, employee, or consultant, or his/her spouse or domestic partner.

“Financial Interest” means any interest that has a: (i) monetary value of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more or generates a financial gain or loss of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more in a calendar year; (ii) and is not common to the other citizens of the Town.

“Gift” is a gift of more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in value. A gift includes, but is not limited to, entertainment, food, beverage, travel and lodging to the extent that the gift value exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in any one (1) year from the same person.

Gifts do not include:

- a. A political contribution that is otherwise reported in accordance with the law.
- b. A loan made on terms that are commercially reasonable and not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business.
- c. Certificates, plaques or other ceremonial awards costing less than fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- d. A rebate or discount on the price of anything of value made in the ordinary course of business, without regard to that person’s status.
- e. Honorary degrees.
- f. Costs associated with attending a conference or business meeting and/or registration or entrance fee to attend such conference or business meeting in which the Town or Board of Education official or Town Board of Education employee participates in his/her official capacity.
- g. Any gift provided to a Town or Board of Education official or Town or Board of Education Employee or to a family member of a Town or Board of Education official or Town or Board of Education Employee for the celebration of a major life event provided any such gift provided to an individual does not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in value. A major life event shall include, but not be limited to, a ceremony commemorating an individual’s induction into religious adulthood such as a confirmation or bar mitzvah; a wedding; a funeral; the birth or adoption of a child; and retirement from public service or Town employment.

“Inquiry” means a complaint or allegation of a possible violation of the Code.

“Managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a Town or Board of Education contract” means having direct, extensive, and substantive responsibilities with respect to the negotiation of the contract and not peripheral, clerical, or ministerial responsibilities.

“Official” is any person holding elective or appointive office in the government of the town and shall include, but not be limited to, the Town Council, Board of Education or any other agency as defined herein.

“Respondent” means a person who is the subject of a complaint.

Section 4. Confidential information and Withholding of Information.

Town and Board of Education officials, employees or consultants may not disclose or use any information or records that are not available to the public except in the performance of official duties or as required by law or court order. No Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant may withhold information or make a dishonest or fraudulent statement with the intent to deceive or to misrepresent material facts in the performance of his or her official duties.

Section 5. Conflict of Interest Provisions and Other Prohibited Activities

- A. A Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant has a conflict of interest when that individual engages in or participates in any contract, transaction, decision, employment or rendering of service in which the Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant or any member of his family has a financial or beneficial interest. Notwithstanding anything contained in this ordinance to the contrary, a Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant may enter into a contract with the Town or the Board of Education if the contract is (i) publicly quoted or bid; or (ii) the Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant is not involved in the awarding of the contract. In addition, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any employment or consultant contracts in which a Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant is hired by the Town or the Board of Education to perform necessary services, including, but not limited to recreational services.
- B. A financial interest or beneficial interest presents a conflict of interest that is incompatible with the proper discharge of official responsibilities in the public interest if the Town or Board of Education official or employee has reason to believe or expect that he/she or any member of his family will obtain, secure, or advance such interest by reason of his/her actions in performance or nonperformance of his/her official responsibilities.
- C. A Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant does not have a financial interest or beneficial interest that is incompatible with the proper discharge of his/her official responsibilities in the public interest if the interest accrues to such individual or his/her family members as a member of a profession, occupation, or group to no greater extent that it accrues to any other member of the profession, occupation, or group with which he/she is affiliated as set forth in Section 7-148h(b) of the General Statutes.
- D. No Town or Board of Education official or employee may directly hire or supervise a member of his/her family except for temporary emergency situations, including, but not limited to, inclement weather and labor shortages.
- E. Town officials and employees shall not use Town owned or leased vehicles, equipment, facilities, materials or property for personal convenience or profit. This section does not apply to Town-owned vehicles issued to emergency responders who are authorized by the Mayor, Fire Chief or Police Chief to take their Town-owned vehicles home, or vehicles issued to employees who are permitted to bring their Town-owned vehicles homes as part of an employment agreement or contract.
- F. No Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant shall solicit or accept any gift from any person or entity who or which is interested directly or indirectly in any business transaction or pending matter that is within the purview of such official, employee or consultant. No Town or Board of Education official, employee or

consultant shall accept, or knowingly seek or cause to be given to any member of his/her family, any valuable favor, treatment, consideration, or advantage beyond that which is generally available to the citizens of the Town from any person who, to the knowledge of the official, employee or consultant, is interested directly or indirectly in any business transaction or pending matter that is within the responsibilities of the official, employee or consultant. For purposes of this section, a pending matter includes, but is not limited to, any application to any agency, a bid for work to be performed, an application for employment, and any bid for the furnishing of supplies, equipment or services.

Section 6. Disclosure and Disqualification.

A. Any Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant who has a conflict of interest, financial interest, or beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, transaction or decision within the purview of his/her official responsibilities shall disclose that conflict of interest in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. Such disclosure shall disqualify the official, employee or consultant from participation in the matter, transaction or decision.

B. No Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant shall appear on behalf of any private person or party before any agency in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter in which he/she has financial interest or beneficial interest without first disclosing such interest to the agency, which shall record such disclosure in the record of the agency's proceeding. This Code shall not prohibit any current or former Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant from appearing before any agency on his/her own behalf.

C. If there is an uncertainty whether a Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant has a conflict of interest, financial interest, or beneficial interest that could disqualify that individual from participation in a matter, such individual may request an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission pursuant to this ordinance.

D. Nothing in the Code shall be interpreted to authorize conduct restricted or prohibited by any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes including, but not limited to, Sections 8-11, 821 and 22a-42(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes that restrict conduct of members of municipal zoning and planning authorities and members of Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses commissions.

Section 7. Required Filings for Certain Town and Board of Education Officials.

The Mayor and the members of the Town Council and the Board of Education shall, on or before January 1st each year, file with the Town Clerk, on a form to be prepared by the Town Attorney, a statement, under oath, containing the following information:

A. All real estate located within the Town of Ledyard owned by such official or held under lease for a term exceeding five years, excluding, however, his/her principal residence. The foregoing shall also apply to real estate in the Town of Ledyard owned or leased, by a corporation, trust or partnership in which any such official is the legal or equitable holder of at least five (5) percent of the legal or equitable interest in said corporation, trust, or partnership.

B. The names of any firm, proprietorship, partnership or corporation of which said official is an employee or in which such official holds at least a five (5) percent interest; and if applicable, whether such firm, proprietorship, partnership or corporation has sold or supplied goods or services in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per annum to the Town of Ledyard during the two (2) years immediately preceding such official's election to office, *and while in office*.

C. Any income, fees, salary or wages, directly or indirectly, received by such official from the Town of Ledyard during the two (2) years immediate ~~preceding~~ *preceding* such official's election to public office, *and while in office*.

Section 8. Acknowledgment forms

- A. The Town Clerk shall provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to every Town and Board of Education official. Every Town official, including members of the Board of Education, shall sign and file with the Town Clerk an acknowledgement form, prepared by the Town Attorney, indicating his/her awareness of the provisions of this Code. The Superintendent of Schools shall sign and file with the Board of Education Human Resources Director an acknowledgement form, prepared by the Town attorney, indicating his/her awareness of the provisions of this Code. The Human Resources Directors of both the Town and Board of Education, respectively, shall: (i) provide current Town and Board of Education employees a copy of the Code of Ethics within one-hundred-twenty (120) business days of its effective date; and (ii) provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to every Town and Board of Education employee within sixty (60) business days of employment. Copies of the Code of Ethics may be sent to officials and employees electronically.
- B. Within ten (10) business days of the effective date of this ordinance, the Code of Ethics shall be incorporated by reference into all prospective contracts entered into by the Town of Ledyard and the Board of Education with a consultant. The Human Resources Directors of both the Town and Board of Education, respectively, shall provide current Town and Board of Education consultants a copy of the Code of Ethics within thirty (30) business days of its effective date. Copies of the Code of Ethics may be sent to consultants electronically.
- C. The Mayor and Superintendent of Schools shall develop a protocol for periodic training of employees concerning the Code of Ethics. The Commission shall develop a protocol for periodic training of officials.
- D. The Town Council shall approve a procedure for monitoring compliance with this section and approve the training protocols specified in subsection (c).

Section 9. Establishment and Qualifications of Ethics Commission.

- A. Structure. The Ethics Commission shall be comprised of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members. All regular members and alternate members of the Ethics Commission shall be electors of the Town. No more than two (2) of the regular members may be affiliated with any one political party. At all times, at least one regular member shall be unaffiliated with any political party. Both alternate members may not be affiliated with the same political party.
- B. Member and alternate member qualifications. No regular member or alternate members shall:
 - i. be currently employed by the Town or Board of Education;
 - ii. have been employed by the Town or Board of Education for a period of two years prior to being appointed to the Ethics Commission;
 - iii. hold any elective Town office or have been elected to any elective Town office for a period of two years prior to being appointed to the Ethics Commission;
 - iv. be a current member of the Board of Education or have been elected to the Board of Education for a period of two years prior to being appointed to the Ethics Commission;
 - v. serve as a member of another Town agency; *or have served as a member of another Town agency for a period of two (2) years prior to being appointed to the Ethics Commission.*

- vi. hold office in a political party or political committee; *or have held office in a political party or political committee for a period of two (2) years prior to being appointed to the Ethics Commission.*
 - vii. have been found in violation of any state, local or professional code of ethics.
- If a current member of the Ethics Commission files to run for any elective Town office or for the Board of Education, such member shall resign from the Ethics Commission within seven (7) days of said filing.
- C. Compensation Members will not be compensated for their service on the Commission.
 - D. Organizational Meeting Within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the Ethics Commission, an organizational meeting shall be held at which members shall choose a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Secretary.
 - E. Method and Terms of appointment The Town Council shall appoint the Ethics Commission members in the manner provided in the Town Charter. Members of the Ethics Commission shall be appointed by a minimum of (7) seven affirmative votes of the Town Council. Members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. If a member is appointed to fill an unexpired term, then that member's term ends at the same time as the term of the person being replaced. In making the original appointments under this ordinance, the Town Council shall designate two (2) regular members to serve for three (3) years, two (2) regular members to serve for two (2) years; one (1) regular member to serve for (1) year; one (1) alternate member to serve for three (3) years and one (1) alternate member to serve for two (2) years. Thereafter, vacancies shall be filled for a three (3) year term. Inaugural members shall be eligible to serve two (2) additional three (3) years term beyond his/her initial appointment. No member may serve more than three (3) terms total.
 - F. Removal The Town Council may remove members for cause and fill the vacancy in accordance with the Town Charter. Cause for removal shall include, but is not limited to, an unexcused absence from three (3) consecutive meetings. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Ethics Commission to notify the Town Council when a member has not properly performed his/her duties.

Section 10. Powers and Duties of Ethics Commission.

- A. The Ethics Commission shall be authorized to consult with the Town Attorney or another attorney hired by the Commission if so authorized by the Town Council. The Ethics Commission shall be authorized to request that the Town Attorney provide advisory opinions.
- B. The Ethics Commission may render advisory opinions to any Town or Board of Education official, employee or consultant on whether conduct by that person would constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics. The Ethics Commission will make advisory opinions available to the public unless doing so would violate the confidentiality provisions of this Code of Ethics or is otherwise prohibited by law.
- C. The Ethics Commission may examine complaints and to make a determination of probable cause pursuant to the procedures outlined herein. The Ethics Commission may hold hearings concerning alleged violations of the code, may administer oaths, and may compel attendance of witnesses by subpoena to the extent permitted by law.
- D. The Ethics Commission may review the Code of Ethics policies and procedures on an as needed basis and may make recommendations to the Town Council regarding changes to the Code of Ethics policies and procedures. The Ethics Commission may take action to increase public awareness of the Code of Ethics.

Section 11. Ethics Commission Rules of Procedure.

- A. Advisory opinions. Any current, former or prospective Town of Ledyard or Board of Education employee, official or consultant may request an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission as to whether conduct by that person or entity would violate the Code of Ethics. Any current Town or Board of Education official also may request an advisory opinion concerning the activities of any department over which he/she has jurisdiction or agency on which he/she serves.

Individuals initiating a request for an advisory opinion must do so by completing a form available through the Ledyard Town Clerk's Office or through the Town's website www.ledyardct.org. The form must contain a statement setting forth the advice requested and the relevant facts known to the individual making the request so that the Ethics Commission can reasonably be expected to understand the nature of the request.

The individual making the request must sign and date the form. Requests must be addressed in a sealed envelope to the Ethics Commission, c/o The Ledyard Town Clerk, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT 06339-1511 who will date stamp the envelope and forward the sealed envelope promptly to the chair or vice-chair of the Ethics Commission. Within five (5) business days that said request is received by the Town Clerk, the Town Clerk or his/her representative shall notify the chair or vice-chair of the Ethics Commission, or both, of same. The date the request is received by the Town Clerk will mark the official date of receipt for purpose of deadlines for decisions. The chair or vice-chair of the Ethics Commission shall sign a form, provided by the Town Clerk, acknowledging the receipt of the request.

The chair will present the request to the Ethics Commission at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting at an executive session, except upon the request of the individual that is seeking the advisory opinion to present the request in open session.

Advisory opinions will be made by a majority of the Ethics Commission members voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The Ethics Commission will issue an advisory opinion as expeditiously as possible but in any event within ninety (90) business days from the day it first considers the request. The Ethics Commission may extend the time for a decision for up to an additional thirty (30) business days. All advisory opinions must be in writing and communicated to the individual making the request.

The Ethics Commission may decline to render an advisory opinion if (1) the subject matter is not covered by the Code of Ethics, (2) the known facts are incomplete or incorrect, and the omission or misstatements are material to the advisory opinion requested, or (3) other reasonable grounds exist for not taking action. If the Ethics Commission decides to so act, it shall state its reasons.

B. Complaints.

- i. Filing of a Complaint. A complaint alleging any violation of the Code of Ethics shall be made on a form prescribed by the Ethics Commission available at the Town's website www.ledyardct.org or through the Town's Clerk office, and signed under penalty of false statement. The form shall be delivered to the Town Clerk in a sealed envelope who will date stamp the envelope and forward the sealed envelope promptly to the chair or vice-chair of the Ethics Commission. On the day the sealed envelope is received by the Town Clerk, the Town Clerk or his/her representative shall notify the chair or vice-chair of the Commission, or both, and the respondent within five (5) business days of receipt of the complaint. The chair or vice-chair of the Ethics Commission shall sign a form, provided by the Town Clerk, acknowledging the receipt of the complaint. The Ethics Commission shall also notify the respondent that a complaint was received and that it will conduct a probable cause determination and invite the respondent to provide any information the respondent deems relevant to the Ethics Commission's determination of probable cause. No complaint may be made under the Code of Ethics unless it is filed with the Ethics Commission within three (3) years after the violation alleged in the complaint has been committed.

The Complaint shall include the: (i) the name of the person accused (respondent); (ii) name of the person filing the complaint; and (iii) the specific acts alleged to constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics and when said actions occurred.

ii. Probable Cause Determination

Within sixty (60) business days of the receipt of a complaint by the Chair or Vice-Chair, the Ethics Commission shall review and determine whether there is probable cause that a violation of the Code of Ethics has occurred. A finding of probable cause means that based on a review of the available information, *and any additional information the Ethics Commission deems relevant*, the Ethics Commission determines that reasonable grounds exist to believe that the respondent engaged in prohibited conduct by the Code of Ethics. If the Ethics Commission does not make a finding of probable cause, the complaint shall be dismissed, and a copy of its decision shall be mailed to both the complainant and the respondent. Unless the Ethics Commission makes a finding of probable cause, a complaint alleging a violation of this Code of Ethics shall be confidential except upon the request of the respondent.

If the Ethics Commission makes a finding of probable cause, which shall require three (3) affirmative votes, it shall so advise both the complainant and the respondent and begin a formal investigation.

iii. Hearings

If the Ethics Commission decides that probable cause of a violation of the Code of Ethics exists, it will conduct a public hearing to determine whether or not a violation occurred in accordance with Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ("UAPA") (See Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes). At the hearing, the respondent will have the right to be represented by legal counsel; to present evidence and witnesses and compel the attendance of witnesses; to produce books, documents, records and papers; to examine and cross-examine witnesses; and to inspect and copy relevant and material records, papers and documents. Hearings are not governed by the legal rules of evidence and any information relevant to the matter may be considered. The Ethics Commission will respect the rules of privilege recognized by the law. Not later than ten business (10) days before the start of the hearing, the Ethics Commission will provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. The Ethics Commission will make a record of the proceedings.

iv. Final Decisions

Decisions by the Ethics Commission that a person is in violation of the Code of Ethics must result from the concurring vote of ~~three (3)~~ *four (4)* of its members. The Ethics Commission must render its decision within sixty business (60) days of the closing of the hearing. Such finding and memorandum will be deemed to be the final decision of the Ethics Commission for the purposes of the UAPA. The respondent may appeal to the superior court in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes. If the Ethics Commission determines that the Code of Ethics was violated, it will provide the respondent, the Mayor, the Ledyard Town Council and the Board of Education (if applicable) with a copy of its findings and memorandum within ten (10) business days after its decision. It will also advise the respondent of his/her right to appeal the decision pursuant to Section 4-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

v. Penalties for Violations of the Code of Ethics

A violation of the Code of Ethics may lead to any one or a combination of the following penalties:

- a. order to cease and desist the violation;
- b. pay a civil penalty of up to the maximum amount permitted by State law;
- c. censure;
- d. suspension without pay;
- e. demotion;
- f. termination of employment or contract; and
- g. Restitution of any benefits received because of the violation committed.

Penalties will be determined by a vote *of seven (7) members majority* of the Town Council within sixty (60) business days after receipt of the finding and memorandum of Ethics Commission.

The remedies and procedures specified in any applicable statutory and Charter provisions, personnel rules, contract grievance rules, or other work rules, policies, and procedures, shall be followed in the enforcement of this section.

Section 12. Effective Date.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective six months after the Ethics Commission’s Organizational Meeting.

Section *13 2*. Severability.

If any part of this Code of Ethics or Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.

Signed/Certified on: _____	_____
	Gary St. Vil, Chairman
Approve/Disapprove on: _____	_____
	Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor
Published on: _____	_____
	Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk
Effective: _____	

History: Based on the public’s interest to establish standards of ethical conduct for all town officials and town employees and for those who serve or conduct business with the Town of Ledyard. This Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission was developed to establish guidelines for the conduct of those in public service; and to establish a procedure to be followed by the Ethics Commission in receiving, adjudicating, and reporting on alleged violations of the Code of Ethics.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman St. Vil thanked Councilor Garcia-Irizarry for her presentation regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance. He asked those wishing to comment to please state their name and address for the record and to keep their comments to 3-minutes or less. He stated to allow time for all those who would like to speak this evening that he would ask for those who have already submitted written comments to the Town Council, that they not read their written communication, as Town Council has already received their comments. However, he stated that residents were welcome to provide other comments that have not already been submitted.

Mr. M. Dave Schroeder, Jr., 290 Whalehead Road, Gales Ferry, stated that he was present this evening to speak in-favor of adopting the proposed Ethics Ordinance for Ledyard. He stated the Town Council has heard his comments at a number of meetings and at the previous Public Hearings. He stated that he could probably nit-pick on things such as the amount of time for advisory questions, but that he was not going to do that this evening. He encouraged the Town Council to pass the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Mr. Eric Treaster, 10 Huntington Way, Ledyard, stated that he concurred with Mr. Schroeder’s comment for the Town Council to pass the proposed Ethics Ordinance. He stated it was his opinion that it was an excellent Ordinance noting it was easy to

understand and it was overwhelming supported by the public. He stated he had one complaint, which he addressed at the Administration Committee's June 10, 2026 meeting, noting that he believed that six months to implement the Ordinance as stated in Section 12 "*Effective Date*" was too long. He stated they could probably get it done in 60 days. He requested they consider shortening the time to keep every body's toes to the fire. He stated overall he thought they did an excellent job; and he encouraged the Town Council to adopt the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Mr. Carlo Porazzi, 30 Chapman Lane, Gales Ferry, stated that he wanted to second or third the comments regarding Section 12 "*Effective Date*" noting six months to bring people up to speed was excessive. He commended everyone who participated in this process, and brought the proposed Ethics Ordinance this far. Thank you.

Mrs. Karen Parkinson, 5 Rose Hill Road, Ledyard, stated that she was speaking tonight with her Retired Professional Social Worker hat on. She stated the Social Workers National Organization had a very clear code of ethics that set their standards for behavior. She continued by noting the following:

- Code of Ethics – Mrs. Parkinson noted at the previous Public Hearings regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance she stated that would like to see a code of ethics with a positive standard of behavior rather than all the delineations of what they could do when some has screwed up. She stated the proposed Ethics Ordinance still lacked clarity, noting that she was not asking them to change the proposed Ordinance now. She asked that the Town Council approve the draft Ordinance as presented this evening; and she encouraged them to revisit the Ethics Ordinance to revise it at a later time. She stated because she felt so strongly about the importance of having a code of ethics that she researched and read many other towns codes of ethics, and she commented that the Town Council needed to clean that up in their Ethics Ordinance.
- Length of the Ordinance – Mrs. Parkinson stated the proposed Ethics Ordinance was much too long, stating the longer the document was the more problems they would have with it. She stated with a shorter Ordinance they would have less problems.
- Consultants – Mrs. Parkinson stated earlier in this process it was debated whether "*Consultants*" should be included in the Ethics Ordinance. She noted during the process the Administration Committee removed "*Consultants*" from the proposed Ethics Ordinance; however, she stated it was added back to the draft presented this evening.
- Family – Mrs. Parkinson stated she had never seen a definition of family described as it was defined in the proposed Ethics Ordinance as follows:

"Family means the spouse, domestic partner, fiancé, fiancée, parents, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, stepchildren, foster children, siblings and their children, stepsiblings and their children, and foster siblings and their children, of an official, employee, or consultant, or his/her spouse or domestic partner."

Mrs. Parkinson stated if they hire a Consultant, that in accordance with the definition of "*Family*" (noted above) that their domestic partner's step children would probably be considered at risk. She rhetorically questioned whether it made any sense to have that broad of a scope to include foster children, step children, your mother's step sister's children, etc. Mrs. Parkinson stated the definition for family was mind boggling; and if she was a consultant that this language would cause her to turn down a job in Ledyard. She stated the town was at risk of losing employees and consultants by making the proposed Ordinance so extensive into their family network. She stated she could see their immediate family and first generation being the definition for family; and she asked that they clean up the definition.

Mrs. Parkinson concluded by stating that she did not object to the Town Council passing the proposed Ethics Ordinance as written; however, she stated that there were weak spots and they were going to have to revisit the Ordinance.

Ms. Deborah Edwards, 30 Bluff Road West, Gales Ferry, stated that she also agreed that delaying the implementation of the proposed Ethics Ordinance was too long; and that they could do something sooner than six months. She stated they were in year three

to draft the proposed Ethics Ordinance; and that she did not think they needed to have any further delays. She stated the people that wanted to be involved could get themselves up to speed in three to four months, noting October or November 1st was a great target date. She asked that the Town Council approve the proposed Ethics Ordinance. She thanked the Town Council for their work on the Ethics Ordinance.

Mr. Mike Cherry, 5 Whippoorwill Drive, Gales Ferry, attending remotely via Zoom, thanked the Town Council for all the work they have done to draft the proposed Ethics Ordinance over the years noting they had an Ordinance that was going to work. He commented on the six month implementation timeframe noting the amount of work the Ethics Commission was going to need to do such as drafting bylaws, ensuring all the forms were filled out, and getting familiar with what their charge was, decide who was going to Chair the Commission, etc. He stated all this work takes time and would start after their Organizational Meeting. He stated that he did not think they would have their Organizational Meeting before October or November, noting that would be based on finding people to appoint that would meet the criteria laid out in the proposed Ethics Ordinance. He commented on the appointment process relative to candidates being vetted by the Democratic Town Committee, the Republican Town Committee, and Unaffiliated candidates to ensure they did not serve on a town committee or board within the last two-years, and other requirements before they could submit names to the Administration Committee for them to interview and decide whether the candidates should be forwarded to the Town Council for appointment. Therefore, he stated delaying the implementation of the proposed Ethics Ordinance for six months after the Commission had their Organizational Meeting made sense to him.

Mr. Cherry went on to state that he agreed with Mrs. Parkinson in that they needed to have a positive code of ethics. He stated that he thought the Code of Ethics could be adopted by a Resolution. He stated after the Ethics Commission was seated they could work to draft and propose a code of ethics as a Resolution to the Town Council. He stated every organization that he has been part of had a positive code of ethics. He thanked the Administration Committee for making the final corrections, noting they made the document clearer. He suggested the Town Council close the Public Hearing this evening and include the proposed Ethics Ordinance on their August 12, 2026 Agenda for its adoption. Thank you

Mr. Jeff Hugabone, 28 Bluff Road West, Gales Ferry, attending remotely via Zoom, stated that he also wanted to applaud everyone who worked to draft the proposed Ethics Ordinance, noting that it seemed to be a well-constructed Code of Ethics. He stated this issue was important for building trust for the town, neighbors, and leadership, noting that it provided a road map for preventing issues in the future. He stated that he would like to echo the sentiment that there was a sense of urgency; and he asked the Town Council to move forward with this as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Mr. Eric Treaster, 10 Huntington Way, Ledyard, addressed the six month implementation timeframe, noting that Ledyard did not have to reinvent the wheel. He stated they could borrow bylaws and forms from another town, noting that the Ordinance itself was specific on the procedure. He stated they could get this work done in ten days if they put their mind to it. He stated it was his opinion that six months was too conservative. Thank you.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman St. Vil stated hearing no further public comment, that the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Transcribed by Roxanne M. Maher
Administrative Assistant to the Town Council

I, Gary St. Vil, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct
copy of the minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 8, 2026

Attest: _____
Gary St. Vil, Chairman