

LEDYARD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. When a regular meeting would fall on a state holiday, the meeting shall be rescheduled by the Chairman. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or two other members of the Commission. A regular meeting may be cancelled by majority vote at the previous meeting. Executive meetings or sessions will be held only as permitted by Chapter 14, section 1-200 and 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes. All meetings, records, and proceedings of the Commission will conform to Chapter 14, Section 1-200 and 1-225.

2. ALTERNATES, QUORUM, VOTING

At the beginning of each meeting if regular Commission members are absent, a like number of alternates shall be selected to act for the absent members for the duration of the meeting. Alternates will be selected in rotation from a list arranged alphabetically. Alternates serving (acting) as members during any hearing shall continue to serve until the matter concerned has been disposed of. Four members (including alternates when acting) shall constitute a quorum.

Alternate members shall attend all meetings, take part in all discussions, and be assigned Committee responsibilities, but shall not be allowed to move, second, or vote unless acting as a regular member. No regular member or alternate shall participate in any hearing or decision on any matter in which he has a personal, financial, or other interest. In the event of such disqualification, it shall be entered upon the record of the meeting. The Chairman shall make the final decision as to the disqualification.

Regular members and alternates shall inform the Chairman or Clerk of any absence before a scheduled meeting. Failure to do so, on two consecutive occasions, will result at the discretion of the Chairman, in a letter from the Commission reminding them of their responsibilities to the Commission.

Any alternate or regular member who misses five (5) or more scheduled meetings in one (1) year shall, at the discretion of the Chairman, be notified of their absenteeism and asked to reconsider their commitment to the Commission.

3. COMMITTEES AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

a. Standing Committees and Liaison Assignments

There shall be standing Committees for the purposes enumerated below:

Nathan Lester House Committee

The Nathan Lester House Committee is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds in the Nathan Lester House District. Specific duties include the determination of visiting hours, and liaison with the tenants and caretakers. The Committee

shall make recommendations to the Commission on operation and capital budgets, use policies, and new programs.

Sawmill Liaison

The Sawmill Committee is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds in the Sawmill District. Specific duties include the determination of visiting hours, and liaison with other Commissions having facilities in the district. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission on operation and capital budgets, use policies, new programs, agreements with other Commissions or caretakers and the selection of sawmill operations.

Research & Preservation Liaison

The Research & Preservation Liaison is responsible for directing a program of research to document accurately the history and growth of the town. The Research & Preservation Liaison may assist property owners in researching the origins of their property and buildings. The Liaison shall administer a program of placing identification plaques on thoroughly researched structures and shall set criteria for the awarding of plaques. The Research & Preservation Liaison is responsible for promoting the preservation of town landmarks, buildings of historic significance and their environs. Included in its duties shall be liaison with other land use Commissions, providing historical input to town plans and zoning regulations, and identification of possible new historic districts. The Research & Preservation Liaison shall serve as study committee for proposed historic districts, and nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks.

Center School Liaison

The Center School Liaison is responsible for the operation, upkeep and maintenance of the Center School building and property. The Center School Liaison shall schedule tours of the schoolhouse as appropriate. The Liaison shall make recommendations to the Commission on operation and budgets.

Social Media Liaison

The Social Media Liaison shall act as an administrator for all Social Media accounts administered on behalf of town properties under the purview of the Historic District Commission. The Social Media Liaison shall adhere to the Town of Ledyard Management Information Systems (MIS) Social Media Policy updated November 2019.

b. Special Committees and Special Liaison Assignments

The Commission may establish such special committees or liaisons as are found necessary to carry out its duties and programs. Such Committees or liaisons may be established by a majority vote at any meeting.

c. Membership of Committees and Liaison Assignments, Method of Appointments

All Committees shall consist of at least one Commission member but not more than two regular Commissions members or alternates. Committees may also consist of community members at large as deemed appropriate for such Committee. Committee appointments shall be made by the Commission Chairman. Each Committee shall elect a Chairman, Clerk and such other officers as they deem necessary. Liaison Assignments shall consist of no more than one Commission member. Liaison Assignments shall be made by the Commission Chairman.

d. General Committee Responsibilities

Reporting: All Committees and Liaisons shall submit a report to the Commission at each regular meeting on Committee activities.

Budget Funds: Committees and Liaisons shall make budget recommendations to the Historic District Commission by the November meeting each year.

Non-Budget Funds: Funds accrued from operations of the districts and any monetary gifts shall be placed in special bank accounts accountable to the Town Treasurer. Such funds may be expended by the Historic District Commission for operating, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes.

e. Non-Monetary Gifts

Acceptance of gifts other than money shall be made by vote of the Commission after recommendation by the cognizant Committees or Liaisons. Gifts may require approval of the Finance Committee and Town Council as defined in the Town of Ledyard General Government Grant Application Policy and Procedures.

4. OFFICERS

The Commission shall elect annually at the January meeting a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. These officers shall be regular Commission members. Officer vacancies as a result of resignation may be filled as needed by a Commission vote. Specific duties are:

Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Commission, appoint all Committee members; be an ex officio member of all Committees and be responsible for the proper functioning of each. He shall prepare an agenda for each meeting and cause notice to be given of each meeting as specified in Chapter 14, Section 1-200 and 1-225 inclusive of Connecticut General Statutes. He shall initiate purchase order requests, authorize payment of invoices, report Commission finances at each regular meeting, prepare Annual Report during July, submit year's meeting schedule to Town Clerk in November, prepare proposed budget requests during December/January.

Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chairman during his absence or when requested by the Chairman.

Clerk

The clerk shall keep minutes and records of all Commission meetings and hearings in compliance with Chapter 14, Section 1-200 and 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

5. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS, HEARING

No building or structures shall be erected, altered, restored, moved or demolished within an historic district until after an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to exterior architectural features (as defined in the statutes) has been submitted to the Commission and approved by said Commission. Applications for certificates of appropriateness shall be submitted on Commission prescribed forms by the Committee or Liaison responsible for operation and maintenance of the District. Such application must contain:

1. Names of Commission member making application.
2. Building or structure affected.
3. A written description of work to be done including the materials to be used.
4. Drawings or plans of the work to be done or photographs showing work to be reproduced.
5. Approximate dates of commencement and completion.

The Commission member making the application shall submit the same to the next regular meeting of the Commission at which time the Commission shall decide if a hearing is required and if so set a date for a hearing on the application. Such hearing shall be held within forty days of the Meeting at which the application is received. The Commission shall cause a notice of the hearing to be published in a newspaper having circulation in the town not more than fifteen (15) days nor less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing. Such notice shall contain the name of the property under consideration, a description of the proposed work, and the date, time and place of the hearing.

6. DECISIONS

The Commission shall render a decision on the certificate of appropriateness within forty-five (45) days of the hearing if held. In passing upon appropriateness, the Commission shall consider, in addition to any other pertinent factors, the historical and architectural value and significance, architectural style, general design, arrangement, size, mass, scale, texture and material of the architectural features involved and the relationship thereof to the exterior anticultural style. A Certificate of Appropriateness may be refused for any building or structure, the erection, reconstruction, restoration, alternation or razing of which, in the opinion of the Commission, would be detrimental to the interest of the Historic District. All decisions granting or refusing a certificate of appropriateness shall be in writing and a copy shall be sent to the Building Official.

7. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

These rules shall be reviewed annually at the November meeting. Amendments to or repeal of any or all sections may be voted by a four fifths majority at any meeting provided the proposed amendment or repeal has been entered into the record of the previous meeting.

8. AUTHORITY

These rules are established in accordance with a Ledyard Town Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Establishing a Historic District Commission for the Town of Ledyard” as provided for under the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 97, Section 7-147a through k inclusive as attached. No portion of these rules may supersede or conflict with the above-mentioned ordinance or statutes.

Adopted by vote of the Ledyard Historic District Commission on June 19, 1978. Amended by vote of the Ledyard Historic District Commission on April 16 and June 18, 1984, on March 18, 1985, on February 23, 2004, on November 21, 2005, on November 17, 2008, on December 17, 2012, on February 25, 2019 and on November 21, 2022.