



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Mike Marelli

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marelli at 6:42 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance:
Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Chairman
William Barnes, Town Council Liaison

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Betsy Graham

AYE 5 Graham Kil Marelli Cohen Levandoski

EXCUSED 2 Harwood Edgecomb

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.
None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Public Comments.

Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Chairperson, asked to speak to the Commission. She apologized for presenting it a month late but said that April was "Volunteer Appreciation month" and the Town Council would like to thank you for your volunteer work on this Commission. She read "you and your fellow Commission members time and talent and are a critical component to making our Town operate and a great place to live. We are thankful, we are grateful and recognize all of your hard work and would just like to say thank you".

The Commissioners thanked Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Chairperson.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

- Zoe Wu, a High School Senior who is on the board of the Alliance for Mystic River Watershed was nominated for the Aquarion Water Company Environmental Champions Award.

- Burton Woods: A check for \$2000 was cut to FW Foresters.

- Tick Awareness signs:

Ms. Graham went to Ledge Light Health District after speaking with Liz Burdick, Planner Director, about wording for signs and LLDH gave her one sign for free (their last sign).

Discussed putting signs at all trail heads in town, even those not managed by CC. Need to determine how many trails.

Commissioners volunteered to reach out to other entities to see if they would want to participate:

Avalonia - Mr. Cohen.

Tri-Town - Ms. Graham

Parks and Recreation - Chairperson Marelli.

State of Connecticut - Ms. Graham.

There was also a suggestion to have it posted on the Town website and/or distribute tick informational packets.

- Regatta Fest - June 7, 2025, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Erickson Park. The Commission will set up a booth.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Property Walks.

White-Hall - Ms. Graham shared photos of the entrance. The area to the left of the parking lot needs to be cleared, possibly knocked down with a D/R type trimmer. Chairman Marelli will also talk to Steve Masalin, Public Works Director to see if they can use their machine to grind it

down. Discussion was had regarding applying weed killer after to keep it in under control.

Glacier Park: Mr. Cohen cleaned up ten or so empty cardboard boxes left by the surveyor. Boxes had held survey stakes. The Commissioners also talked about trying to control weeds in the parking area by trimming and application of weed killer. Chairman Marelli will look research weed killer application steps.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Financial Reports.

Excess funds transferred into the Trail Maintenance account. \$12,540 was confirmed to be in the Trail Maintenance account.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Pollinator Pathways Project continued.

The plants were reported to have survived the winter at Ms. Graham's property. The plants will remain there until the site work is completed, date unknown.

Both Sawmill and Highland Parks need weeding. Is this the responsibility of Parks and Recreation? If so, someone with plant knowledge should be present to assure that good plants don't get pulled. Wood chips would be helpful to keep weeds down

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Field Clearing at White-Hall Property.

Nothing new to report.

5. Recommendations to Burton Woods Management Plan Update.

This is a long-term discussion. The Commission must think about grant applications given the scale and scope of the management plan.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Michael E. Marelli

SECONDER: Betsy Graham

AYE 5 Graham Kil Marelli Cohen Levandoski

EXCUSED 2 Harwood Edgecomb

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