



Chairman Gary St. Vil

**TOWN OF LEDYARD**  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

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Ledyard, CT 06339

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HYBRID FORMAT  
MINUTES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION  
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

**DRAFT**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Brunelle at 6:28p.m. at the Annex Meeting Room - Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and members of 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-Insite Meeting Portal.

- II. ROLL CALL-

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location	Arrived	Departed
Willaim Barnes	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:28 pm	6:40 pm
April Brunelle	Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	6:28 pm	6:40 pm

- III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS – None.

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION – None.

- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2025

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: Councilor Barnes noted the following correction:

Page 7; 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph; last sentence the word “**not**” needed to be added.

“He had **not** heard from the Mayor”

**VOTE: 2 – 0- Approved and so declared**

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Councilor Brunelle stated the Committee would continue to keep the scheduling of “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” on their Agenda.

- ***Lantern Hill Waterfront Park (Bush Pond)*** – No Update  
Councilor Brunelle stated that Parks & Recreation has been continuing their work to make some improvements to the Park that would include picnic benches, etc., before they invited residents to see the new Park. She stated that she was hoping that they may be able to have the Informal Conversation at the *Lantern Hill Waterfront Park* this fall.
- ***Visit all of the Parks in Town*** – No Update.
- ***Glacier Park – Kettle Hole*** – Councilor Barnes stated the Conservation Commission has identified that there has been a series of some type of vandalisms at the Kettle Hole. He noted that if they could clean-up Glacier Park that perhaps they use it as a venue to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” at some point. He stated that he thought they may want to bring attention to the undesirable activity that has been happening at the Kettle Hole to help to curtail the activity; and he noted that the Mayor should also be involved in this matter.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she would look into Glacier Park-Kettle Hole situation to find out more about what was going on; and what should be done to address the situation.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 09/17/2025- 6:30 p.m.**

2. Review the status of Department Heads Government Training Presentations.

Councilor Brunelle noted as Departments were submitting their Presentations that they were being forwarded to the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. She stated now that they have completed the annual budget process that she was hopeful that Departments would have more time to put their Presentations together.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 06/18/2025 - 6:30 p.m.**

3. Start a relationship with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council to help foster communication and mutual points of interest.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she needed to talk Chairman St. Vil noting that he had the point of contact for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council. She stated that she would be sending him an email later this week to find out whether he wanted to continue to be involved with this item, as Town Council Chairman. She stated that she hoped to have a report on this for their September 17, 2025 meeting.

Councilor Barnes stated during the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion's May 21, 2025 meeting he had expressed some concerns. He stated that he has since reviewed some Community Relations Committee Minutes from 2020 & 2021, which was during the Covid Pandemic. He stated the Minutes reflected that there were some concerns regarding town social services. He stated at one point in 2021 there was a proposal to have a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. However, he stated during their last discussion they decided not to proceed with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He stated during that time there were a number of joint meetings that happened regularly, where several Town Councilors in addition to the Community Relations Committee were in attendance, noting the meetings were led at that time by Councilor Michael Washington. He stated that he wanted to share that there was some history regarding the work to build a relationship between the Town and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. He stated in the last session that he reviewed there was a commitment that the two Groups would meet every three to six months. He stated that he wanted to share this information with Councilor Brunelle, noting that he did not know whether the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation would have the same interest in restarting something again, noting that if they did, that there was some history of having done that. Councilor Brunelle stated that it was something worth asking.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 09/17/2025 6:30 p.m.**

4. Research Community Organizations that provide Opioid and Substance Abuse Disorder, Recovery, and Prevention Programs for the use of the Opioid Settlement Funding.

Councilor Brunelle stated to date the Town Council has dispersed the National Opioid Settlement Funding to support local Organizations as follows:

- \$36,100 to the Ledyard Prevention Coalition - September 27, 2023;
- \$10,000 to Community Speaks Out - October 23, 2024;
- \$10,000 to Connecticut Recovery Support – January 15, 2025.
- Up-to \$12,500 to support the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 administration of the DARE Program in Ledyard Public Schools – April 9, 2025

Councilor Brunelle noted that the Finance Committee has been taking the lead on reviewing proposals and working with Organizations to provide opioid and substance abuse and recovery programs.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 9/17/2025 6:30 p.m.**

5. 2025 Schedule for Informal Conversation Forums and Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives.

Councilor Brunelle stated as the calendar year begins to wind down and they are approaching the Holiday Season, they should begin to think about what they want to accomplish next year with regard to community events, awareness, etc.

Councilor Brunelle continued by noting the Ledyard Senior Citizens Center was having their Annual Autumn Night's Dance, on Friday, September 26, 2025. She stated that she volunteered to do the balloons for the event for free; and she stated should other members of the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion like to help with the event that would be great.

Councilor Barnes, Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission Liaison, thanked Councilor Brunelle for the information, noting that the Commission did not meet this month.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 9/17/2025 6:30 p.m.**

6. Possible Designated Youth Fishing Waterway.

Councilor Barnes stated at the Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission July 15, 2025 meeting they were still waiting for an update from Ledyard's Nationally Recognized Wrestler TJ Hepburn, who was an Officer at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Fisheries (DEEP). He noted that Mr. Hepburn approached the Parks & Recreation Commission about the possibility to stock the Sawmill Pond for free; which was the area they would like to stock for Youth Fishing; however, he stated the Pond has not been stocked yet.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 9/17/2025 6:30 p.m.**

7. Recognition of Colonel William Ledyard.

Councilor Barnes stated the Anniversary of the Groton Heights Battle was in September. He noted with all of the events that come with the starting of a new school year he was not certain if they were going to be able to coordinate something. However, he stated that he would like to find a time when they could organize an event to commemorate the Anniversary and Colonel William Ledyard.

Councilor Brunelle stated they could have an event to commemorate the Anniversary and Colonel William Ledyard during a different time of year. She stated that the Committee would keep this item on their agenda for continued discussion.

**RESULT: CONTINUED**

**Next Meeting: 9/17/2025 6:30 p.m.**

8. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee. – None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee

Councilor Brunelle stated she previously mentioned the only new business item earlier this evening, which was the Autumn Night's Dance at the Ledyard Senior Citizens Center scheduled for Friday, September 26, 2025.

**RESULT: COMPLETED**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**VOTE:** Councilor Brunelle moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Barnes.  
**2 – 0 Approved and so declared.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Brunelle  
Committee Chairman  
Community Relations Committee