



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## Historic District Commission

### Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Ty Lamb

#### Regular Meeting

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Monday, March 24, 2025	7:00 PM	Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format
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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to by Chairman Lamb at 7:00 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present** Commissioner Douglas Kelley  
Chairman Ty Lamb  
Commissioner Kelly Lamb  
Commissioner Ammie Chittim  
Commissioner Karen Parkinson  
**Alternate** Alternate Member Vincent Godino  
Alternate Member Kenneth Geer

Also in attendance was Bill Barnes, Town Councilor.

Ms. Chittim and Mr. Barnes were present via Zoom.

#### III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Note needed.

#### IV. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNER COMMENTS

None.

#### V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2025, as written.

Approved as amended to fix the spelling of Mr. Kelley's last name.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Ty Lamb

**SECONDER:** Douglas Kelley

**AYE** 5 Kelley Lamb Lamb Chittim Parkinson

#### VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

**1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Bill Barnes.**

Bill Barnes, Town Councilor reported that the required Spicer Ruins survey was completed and Town Council Chairperson Naomi Rodriguez was prepared to report on the status. Chairman Lamb said he did receive the status and added that there was an error found which will be discussed in more detail under research and preservation. Bill Barnes, Town Councilor, asked if this is something that can be easily resolved? Chairman Lamb said the maps have been completed but the stakes need to be laid out differently, this issue could be fixed over the phone with Peter Gardner.

Bill Barnes, Town Councilor said the Fog of War movie premier is coming and he thanked Mr. Kelley for all his work and assisting with the making of the movie. Mr. Kelley said if there is strong Community interest he could possibly put most of the Fog of War furnishings/photos back on display.

**VII. CHAIRMAN REPORT****1. General Report.**

Chairman Lamb reported that he had been sick and unable to work for the past two weeks, therefore he is a bit behind. He thanked Mr. Godino for stepping in and presenting the budget to the Town Council. Bill Barnes, Town Councilor, confirmed that the budget was passed without modification and said that Mr. Godino did a great job. Chairman Lamb asked if the Capital budget was discussed, Bill Barnes, Town Councilor said no it was not. Chairman Lamb said he will follow up with the Mayor.

Chairman Lamb said he missed one of the three Committee meetings, the one with Ms. Chittim and Ms. Parkinson which he will address later in the meeting.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**2. Financial Report.**

No change to the Sawmill and NLH Donation accounts.

ARPA - encumbered.

NLH - Stands at \$9,383 on the report but the amount will be adjusted to approximately \$5,000 once the tree PO is processed.

Sawmill maintenance - several POs in process.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence.  
None this month.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Sawmill Committee.  
See attachment with Mr. Kelley's project list.

Mr. Godino brought up the frozen drain valve issue. Chairman Lamb mentioned that this should be submitted together with the other dam issues.

Pen Stock -

Mr. Godino mentioned to Steve Masalin, Public Works Director, that issues that were happening. It was suggested to Mr. Masalin that he stop by and observe. The project should take between 2-3 days to complete. Mr. Barnes will send information to Chairman Lamb. The rough estimate for the project is 46K for three days, the bulk of the cost is materials

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

The Board of the Northford Timber Framers made a site visit on March 2 to the Nathan Lester House property to hold their monthly board meeting. The Board performed a walk-through of the area and inspected the house and existing barns. The Board was enthusiastic about possibilities and will explore ways to grow into a partnership with the Museum.

The large larch tree in the garden (immediately behind the house) was taken down on March 10. Though this action is regrettable, as it was the last known specimen tree planted by Dr. Graves, the state of the tree made it very necessary. Other trees of concern are on a priority list and will be taken down as resources allow. The Town's Public Works Department will handle smaller trees when they have capacity. The trees have been marked.

There has been extensive work to clear invasives along the stone walls at the corner of the Great Field where the proposed Dinosaur Garden is planned. The Great Field clearing will begin an effort to clear the eastern side of the field to the wall, leaving only any significant trees.

Work is also underway along the stone walls behind the house and into the North Field, clearing invasives and any trees which imperil the wall.

Fortunately, the recent weather events have not brought down much on the walking trails. They could stand work though - mostly in clearing invasives.

A quote is expected for structural support in the cellar, based on the recent assessment of the timbers and the foundation.

The movie "Fog of War," which was filmed primarily at the Lester House, will be released soon,

perhaps as early as April. There is a possibility that a showing in the Great Field will be arranged. There will be a special Pre-release screening of the movie at the Garde Arts Theater in New London on Tuesday, March 25th.

A meeting with Victoria Erikson and Doug Kelley resulted in a site visit at the Lester House. Chairman Lamb mentioned that a collaboration between Ms. Erikson and Ms. Parkinson might be a great idea for grant requests and other future ideas.

Mr. Geer mentioned drainage issues at the NLH. Can these repairs be completed on a weekend when there are limited visitors? Mr. Kelley responded that anytime is a good time.

Bill Barnes, Town Councilor, brought up the topic of tree removal. Public Works confirmed that the size of the large trees near the entrance are too large for what the Public Works department can do. If the trees are smaller in size, they may be able to handle the job request. Chairman Lamb suggested that Mr. Kelley marks the trees for removal and Public Works could take them down on their time frame. The H&H quote for the larger tree was a winter quote, it is expected to be 5K or more.

Maintenance of the outhouse: The Historic District owns this outhouse; it may be possible to leverage the Town's contract to include Parks & Recreation, which may be a less expensive route to take. More cleaning will be required as the activities at Nathan Lester House increase.

**RESULT: DISCUSSED**

**3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.**

Ms. Chittim said there is not too much to report other than the ongoing issue of access to the Historical Society's documents. Mr. Kelley said he will try to talk to someone at the library.

Ms. Parkinson - reported that she is taking it upon herself to read up on the state statutes. The Historical Commission was established in the 1970's. The State statutes establishes how a Historic Commission is set up and how it works, historic property vs. historic district (Buildings) vs. historic place. There are specific steps that need to be taken, and it is all being researched to establish the Historic Property (Spicer Homestead).

Spicer Homestead - When the house was sold in the 1700's it was considered a mansion. There are a lot of historic remnants such as the small barn and gathering rock to establish the site as a historic property.

Chairman Lamb said the next steps are to draft an Ordinance then hold a meeting with the State, and Planning and Zoning. Mr. Godino asked why it was originally set up as a historic "district" instead of a "place". Ms. Parkinson answered that originally the State Statue defined "districts" not "places", which came along later as an amendment.

**4. Center School - Mr. Geer.**

The School House will be open for the September 20th Bill Library Association Gala. This may be coordinated with the Ledyard Congregational Churches 300th Anniversary.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.**

The month of February had 172 followers and 2,110 views.

Postings for February:

- A couple old Newspaper clippings with subjects of the Ledyard Oak and a 1937 Little Red School House reunion.

- A link for the Guard Arts Theater notice on the Fog of War movie premier.

Ms. Lamb said she will continue to post pictures the Commission's historical sites as well as historical sites around Town. Ms. Lamb said if anyone has something to contribute, to please send it to her.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Any Other Old Business to come before the Commission.**

America 250-

Mr. Kelley said there is no charter but rather an informal Committee. During these meetings, Doug Kelley shared the list of items from the visitors Dave Schroeder Jr. and Dave Schroeder Senior. During the second meeting in addition to collecting more ideas, it was decided to host events throughout the year, as opposed to just one large event. There is a grant for 5k to help with the celebrations. There was discussion to feature the Commission's historic sites. Doug Kelley suggested that Lester House be used as a prequel to the big event.

Other ideas:

- Passport, students can collect tokens at each event.
- Fun run.
- Flyers and brochures.

The Nathan Lester House discussion of being labeled a colonial vs. Federal house.

The Town's Beautification Committee will be participating in an alternating schedule due to other commitments.

Ms. Parkinson asked, "Why does Groton have Colonel Ledyard's Sword"? The possibility of trading the Portrait of Fredrick Bill for the sword or asking Groton to loan the sword was discussed.

**RESULT:** DISCUSSED

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

None.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Ty Lamb

**SECONDER:** Douglas Kelley

**AYE** 5 Kelley Lamb Lamb Chittim Parkinson

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