



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gartska at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Farming Community Allyson Angelini
Community-at-Large Representative Katie Yuhas
Alternate Member Steve Martic
Farming Community Bruce Garstka
Farming Community Russell Holmberg
Farming Community Michael E. Marelli

Late Farming Community William Thorne

Also in attendance was Ty Lamb, Town Councilor serving as the Commission's Liaison.

William Thorne was present via Zoom at 6:06 p.m.
Ty Lamb, Town Councilor was present via Zoom.

III. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

Chairman Garstka said that Roxanne Mayer, Administrative Assistant to the Ledyard Town Council made a recommendation to postpone the Commission's Joint meeting due to a Town Council Public Hearing Budget meeting on the same night.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

Connecticut Farm Bureau newsletter.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2026, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 6 Angelini Yuhas Martic Garstka Holmberg Marelli

EXCUSED 1 Thorne

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison report.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, reported that the budget went before the Town Council for their public meeting tonight (April 21, 2026). Ty Lamb, Town Councilor announced that there is a meeting scheduled with the School Superintendent about the Agriscience Department on May 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., and requests for Commissioners to attend were made.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, said that the Clarke Farm Contract seems to be going well and thanked the Commissioners for their input. Chairman Garstka confirmed that the Clarke Farm proposal is on the agenda for the Town Council meeting tomorrow (April 22, 2026).

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any other Old Business to come before the Commission.

Chairman Garstka said the Commission's Joint Meeting is tentative scheduled during the May meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

X. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chairman Garstka received the paperwork for residents interested in selling the development rights of their land to review with the Tax Assessor. He plans to reach out to other farmers to see if they are interested in selling rights to the State.

Mr. Thorne asked if the State is still only purchasing prime agricultural land. Chairman Garstka believes the State should start purchasing pastureland to reach state acreage goals.

Ms. Parkinson said she has been working with the Gales Ferry District and was wondering if there is a list of historic farms that are still actively farmed in preparation for the 250th celebration. Chairman Garstka said he didn't know of any off-hand, but noted the Allyn Farm, Holmberg Farm, Avery Farm, Lamb Farm, Morgan Farm, Geer Farm, as potential examples. Ms. Parkinson would like to highlight Ledyard as a rural community. Mr. Holmberg suggested looking at the cloth map on the wall of the Town Hall, and that there is also a book at the Nathan Lester House of some of the original houses.

Mr. Thorne suggested that the AG Commission in conjunction with land use table at the community table at one of the Farmer's Market and said he would inquire.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 5:15 p.m.

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