



TOWN OF LEDYARD

CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard, CT 06339

<http://www.ledyardct.org>

Roxanne M. Maher
860 464-3203

HYBRID FORMAT

MINUTES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Kevin J. Dombrowski

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

DRAFT

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Paul at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers - Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Paul welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee 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
Gary Paul	Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	6:52 pm
John Marshall	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	6:52 pm
Bill Saums	Town Council	Excused			
John Rich	Police Chief	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	6:52 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	6:30 pm	6:47 pm

III. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – None.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2023

Moved by Councilor Paul, seconded by Councilor Marshall

VOTE: 2 - 0 Approved and so declared

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Black History Month 2024 Activity/Contest. – Councilor Paul stated Councilor Rodriguez was working to coordinate the event. He noted that he did not have an update to report on this evening.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 09/20/2023 6:30 p.m.

2. Schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services, and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee planned to host booths at three Farmers' Markets this summer; as an Outreach Campaign to the community. He stated the Committee hosted a Booth at the July 19, 2023 Farmers' Market to bring awareness and to provide information regarding Mental Health, and he noted it was a great success.

Councilor Paul continued by noting the following two Outreach Events remained for this 2023 Farmers' Market Summer Season:

- August 30, 2023 – Market Theme-Back-to-School:

Councilor Paul stated he met with Library Director Jennifer Smith to finalize the details of their Outreach Event, noting that the Library had some amazing ideas. He stated they would be located under the new Town of Ledyard Tent and the Community Relations Committee would be supporting and helping the Library by:

- ✓ Providing literature to residents about the many resources and diverse programs the Library provides for all age groups in the community.
- ✓ Sign residents up for Library Cards.
- ✓ The Library has planned an Open House and Scavenger Hunt for that evening instead of the short presentation that they had previously discussed. He stated the Library would be providing clues to residents at the Farmers' Market to visit the Bill Library Open House and to look for the items in the Scavenger Hunt. He stated there would be some small prizes, etc. He stated Director Smith, and her Team were doing a great job!

- September 13, 2023 – Market Theme - Hometown Heros:

Councilor Paul stated he has been working with the town's First Responders (Ledyard and Gales Ferry Fire Departments and the Police Department). He stated the First Responders would be located under the new Town of Ledyard Tent and that the Community Relations Committee would be supporting and helping all the Groups who would be participating in the event which included the following:

- ✓ Representative from the Police Department;
- ✓ Representative from the Ledyard Center Fire Company;
- ✓ Representative from the Gales Ferry Fire Company;

Councilor Paul went on to note this Outreach Event would focus on volunteering either as a First Responder or to learn how to pursue a career as a firefighter or in the

field of law enforcement. He deferred to Police Chief John Rich noting that there were many types of careers in the field of law enforcement.

Chief Rich stated depending on the age of the individuals who were interested in law enforcement that the Ledyard Police Department had the following programs to get young people involved with the Department:

- ✓ Ride-A-Long Program that was a robust program.
- ✓ Internship Program for High School Students.
- ✓ Senior Projects for High School Students.

Chief Rich went on to state that the Police Department also participated in the High School Career Days. He stated for those who were interested in becoming a Police Officer that they had Information Sheets prepared for recruiting. He stated he was looking forward to the September 13, 2023 Farmers Market noting that it would be a great event. He stated that the Police Department and their Emergency Dispatch Communications would be represented at the Farmers Market.

Councilor Paul noted because they would have quite a few Groups participating in the Hometown Heros Event, that he thought that they may need two tents. He questioned whether the Police Department had a tent/canopy. Chief Rich stated the Police Department had a table cover and a display and he stated if the town had an extra tent they could bring that would be great. Councilor Paul stated that he would bring both the new awesome Town of Ledyard Tent and one of his personal tents.

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee's main objective for that evening was to support their First Responders, Firefighters, Police Personnel and to get information out to the community. He stated the Community Relations Committee wanted to support the town's First Responders as well as their volunteers, and give them the recognition they deserve for what they do for their citizens every day.

Councilor Paul went on to note that they also wanted to use the Event to:

- ✓ Promote the many Town Committees that were operated by volunteers from the community.
- ✓ Provide information on how residents could volunteer to serve on a town committee. He stated the Community Relations Committee would have handouts available regarding the many town committees and boards, their appointing authority, and how residents could apply on-line to serve their community in roles other than first responders.

Councilor Paul noted Ledyard had over 200 volunteers who serve on town. He commented on the importance of their volunteers noting these committees were instrumental in how their local government operated and the many programs the town offered to its residents, that ranged from conservation hiking trails, to parks and recreation programs, to land use matters such as zoning regulations,

to overseeing the town's retirement plan, placing flags of Veterans' grave sites, making sure our senior citizens receive the support they need, and the weekly Farmers Market that invited of nearly 1,200 visitors into our town every week during the summer months just to name a few. He stated the residents who volunteer their time and talents to serve the community in roles other than first responders were also Hometown Heros.

Councilor Paul suggested, in preparation for the Hometown Heros Farmers Market that they create a couple of different flyers to promote the Event at the September 13, 2023 Farmers Market; and to let folks know that it would be a good opportunity to obtain information on how they could become involved in their community in a laid-back setting.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 09/20/2023 6:30 p.m.

3. 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 Paul noted that the Committee discussed hosting an Informal Gathering at the new Lantern Hill Waterfront Park for some time in October, 2023. He stated the property was being very generously leased to the Town by Mr. and Mrs. Graham; and that Parks & Recreation was making some non-permanent improvements such as a gazebo, boat launch for small boats, and some picnic tables. He stated it would be great to do something for the residents to see the new park and to hear about the history of the property. He stated that he would contact others to try to schedule a date to visit the Lantern Hill Waterpark and that he would provide an update at the Community Relations Committee's September 20, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Marshall stated that he thought visiting the new waterfront park was a great idea.

Councilor Paul stated the newly combined Commission would most likely take on the scheduling of the tour to visit the town's recreational parks and that he would update the Community Relations Committee once a date has been scheduled to visit the parks.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 09/20/2023 6:30 p.m.

4. Joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Councilor Paul stated Councilor Saums was working to try to schedule something as simple as a morning coffee with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council. He stated he did not have any update to report this evening.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 09/20/2023 6:30 p.m.

5. Review status update regarding the progress of improvements at the Park on East Drive.

Councilor Paul stated as he has mentioned many times the improvements at the Park on East Drive were beautiful, noting that everyone who was involved with the project did a great job. He stated he looked forward to a follow-up to their July 20, 2022 Informal Gathering that they had last summer with the residents in the area. He stated that he appreciated the residents who attended the first Informal Gathering and expressed their concerns. He asked Chief Rich if there were any new issues to report.

Police Chief John Rich stated it has been a quiet time at the Park as far as the Police Department was concerned. He stated their Police Officers have continued to make their regular patrol checks, as they have normally done, noting that things have been very routine, which was good. He stated obviously the Park improvements with the new lighting, the gate, and the Police presence has quieted things down for the residents in the area that had concerns.

Councilor Paul stated they were mid-way through August, and he expressed much appreciation to the Chief Rich and the Police Department for their diligence. He also recognized the Residents, the Parks & Recreation Department and the Public Works Department for their concerted efforts to make the Park improvements happen, noting that this was a good example of a community-team effort.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 09/20/2023 6:30 p.m.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to recommend the Town Council adopt a proposed “*An Ordinance Concerning Liability Pertaining To First Responders Providing Emergency Assistance*” as contained in the draft dated July 17, 2023.

DRAFT: 7/19/2023

Ordinance #

AN ORDINANCE
CONCERNING LIABILITY PERTAINING TO
FIRST RESPONDERS PROVIDING
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Ledyard: “*An Ordinance Concerning Liability Pertaining To First Responders Providing Emergency Assistance*” is hereby enacted.

Section 1: Authority

Pursuant to provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 52-557(b) "Good Samaritan Law".

Section 2. Exempt from Liability

The Good Samaritan Law exempts the Town of Ledyard from liability; and its agents from liability, including paid and volunteer firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services personnel in providing emergency services to people in need.

This includes protection from civil liability for damages as a result of forcible entry believing that a person inside is in need of assistance or first aide.

Section 3 . Severability.

If any section, or part of a section, of this Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.

Section 4. Effective Date

In accordance with the Town Charter this ordinance shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Kevin J. Dombrowski,-Chairman

Approved / Disapproved on: _____

Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor

Published on:

Effective Date:

Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

Background: There has been some incidents for which the Town received a bill for damages due to the breaching of a home in responding to an Emergency 911 Call and concern for the wellness of the individual and concern that the individual could have been unconscious and laying on the floor.

In accordance with the "Good Samaritan Law" the town decided to adopt an Ordinance to clearly state that the town as a non-profit and their agents were exempt from liabilities.

Moved by Councilor Paul, seconded by Councilor Marshall

Discussion: Councilor Marshall stated he was familiar with the Good Samaritan Law because of an incident that happened years ago. He stated that he read the draft Ordinance, noting that it was well written as it stands, and that the Community Relations Committee should move it forward to a Public Hearing and onto the Town Council for action.

Chief Rich stated although it was a very infrequent situation when a Police Officer, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician; or a combination of all of them has to conduct a forced entry into a residence in an apparent emergency situation. However, he stated that it does happen on occasion.

Chief Rich went on to provide some background explaining in the most recent situation Dispatch received an emergency call, that the Police Department responded to, however, it turned out that a third party had come and taken the person to the emergency room. He stated because the person's vehicle was left at the residence the Police Officer reasonably believed that there was a problem, based on the call they had gotten. He stated the Supervisor authorized the entry, explaining that this was part of a protocol, which included the Police Officer doing their due diligence around the area and obtaining authorization from the Supervisor to enter the residence, noting that in an emergency situation time was of the essence. He stated the Police Officer made entry and it turned out that the person had already been transported to the emergency room by a third party.

Chief Rich stated that he and Mayor Allyn, III, discussed these incidents that come up on occasion, noting that this type of situation may happen once a year or once every couple of years. He stated when this happens that either the Landlord or the Homeowner asks who was going to pay for the damage. He stated the town does not have a mechanism for this type of repair. He stated that he fully agreed that the Connecticut Good Samaritan Law was applicable here; and he stated an Ordinance based on the Good Samaritan Law with consistent language, and was a wise choice for the town.

Councilor Paul thanked Chief Rich for his comments, and he stated that he agreed putting the Connecticut General Statutes 52-557(b) "*Good Samaritan Law*" into an Ordinance for the Town of Ledyard was good approach. He stated heaven forbid if a situation did come up that he would hope if it was him that was laying on the floor that the Police would breach the door to provide him assistance. He noted the proposed Ordinance would move onto the Administration Committee at their August 23, 2023 meeting for their review as well.

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: 2 – 0 RECOMMEND TO APPROVE

MOVER: Gary Paul, Town Councilor

SECONDER: John Marshall, Town Councilor

AYES: Gary Paul, John Marshall,

EXCUSED: Bill Saums

2. MOTION to recommend the Town Council to set a Hybrid (In-Person & Video Conference) Public Hearing date on September 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, to receive comments and recommendations regarding a proposed “*An Ordinance Concerning Liability Pertaining To First Responders Providing Emergency Assistance*” as contained in the draft dated July 17, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Paul, seconded by Councilor Marshall

Discussion: Councilor Paul noted in accordance with Chapter III, Section 5 “*Public Hearing on and Passage of Ordinances*” of the Town Charter; a public hearing was required to be held prior to the adoption of an Ordinance.

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: 2 – 0 RECOMMEND TO APPROVE

MOVER: Gary Paul, Town Councilor

SECONDER: John Marshall, Town Councilor

AYES: Gary Paul, John Marshall,

EXCUSED: Bill Saums

3. Any new business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Paul moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Marshall.

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Paul
Committee Chairman
Community Relations Committee