



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Bruce Garstka

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex-Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Martic was appointed as a voting member.

Also in attendance were:

Karen Parkinson, Historic District Commission Chairperson.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor serving as the Commission's Liaison

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

1. Comments of Commission Members.

Mr. Marelli said the Town is selling 580R for agricultural use. Chairman Garstka said his understanding is that the Town purchased the land for the intention of using it as a water source. Since it is not being used as a water source the Town is looking to sell it. Mr. Marelli confirmed that information is correct.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.

Chairman Garstka said he spoke with Anna Wynn, Zoning Department, whose daughter in 4H is looking to volunteer at farms. Chairman Garstka said the calendar collaboration with the Public

Schools that Councilor Lamb spoke of in previous meetings would be helpful in this instance.

Chairman Garstka announced that Ledyard Resident, Jordan LaPlaca owner of Maverick Hill Dressage is one for four individuals picked to represent the United States at the 2026 FEI World Championships in Aachen, Germany. Chairman Garstka spoke with the Town about getting something published on the electronic sign but was told that the sign is reserved for Town events only, not for individuals. He was told, however, that something could be published in the Town's Events Magazine. Chairman Garstka will write an announcement to be published in the October Ledyard Events Magazine.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational items.

None.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2026, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Michael E. Marelli

AYE 4 Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 3 Angelini Holmberg Thorne

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison report.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor gave an update on the Clark Farm Lease, Administration is working on a RFQ and in the meantime a local person is cutting the hay.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor asked if the Commission would consider expanding the ordinance to include the Commission's administration control of Town owned farmland. Chairman Garstka said that may be the root to go, to help speed up the process. Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, asked the Commissioners to talk about it at a future meeting and if the decision is to move forward, he would help facilitate and ordinance change.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor said he will set up a follow-up appointment with the School Superintendent for the AG volunteer calendar and asked Chairman Garstka if he would want to attend the meeting.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor asked the Members to review the Commission's vision, wants and needs for the POCD development.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.

Ms. Parkinson said she wanted to recognize Mr. Holmberg for his article regarding Holmberg Orchard as a Historic Farm on Facebook.

Ms. Parkinson said she has been working on a list of historic farms that have been continuously running since the American Revolution. As of now there are 8 farms included on her list and she has 3-4 more to go. Ms. Parkinson said her goal is to educate the Town Council on Historic Ledyard Farms.

Ms. Parkinson told the Commissioners that on August 5, 2026, the Ledyard Rotary is holding a Non-profit event on the Town Green, concurrent with the Farmer's Market from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Rotary invited Town Commissions to participate.

Ms. Parkinson said September 6, 1781, is an important date, this is when many Ledyard residents died in the Battle of Groton Heights.

Ms. Parkinson presented the idea of paying someone to hay Clark Farm instead of leasing it. The Commission could then sell the hay to local farmers with the profit going back to the Commission. Chairman Garstka said he has asked for farmers to come hay his farm but there was no interest.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 6:28 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bruce Garstka

SECONDER: Katie Yuhas

AYE 4 Yuhas Martic Garstka Marelli

EXCUSED 3 Angelini Holmberg Thorne

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