



TOWN OF LEDYARD

America 250 Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

1:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Hybrid Format

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82438201586?pwd=3F0QfOJSDOQ1fRXJxVkzpVf7LHYz3n.1>

Meeting ID: 824 3820 1586 Passcode: 188119

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred B. Allyn III called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Scott Johnson Jr.
Patricia Riley
Peter Hary
Douglas Kelley
Absent Mathew Novosad

In addition, the following were present:
Kristen Chapman, Mayoral Assistant
Kate Khors, Beautification Committee
Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Chairman

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MOTION to approve the America 250 Planning Committee Special Meeting minutes of February 25, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Patricia Riley

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 4 Johnson, Jr. Riley Hary Kelley

ABSENT 1 Novasad

V. PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. America 250 Planning Committee Discussion

The meeting focused on planning events and activities for the America 250 Celebrations including discussions about historical exhibits, reenactments and community involvement. Various ideas were added to the list of potential events/initiatives with an emphasis on incorporating local history and engaging all age groups. The Committee discussed creating year-round celebrations with a Kick-Off event, possibly with a July 4, 2025 Celebration at the Nathan Lester House. The group also discussed inviting other community groups/organizations to create America 250 themed events that could be registered with the Town and displayed on the Town Website. The Committee addressed logistical aspects including budgets, grant applications, and the creation of promotional materials and social media pages. The Committee would also like to reach out to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation for potential involvement.

Ledyard Celebrates America 250 Events/Initiatives

The Committee added potential ideas/events to the working list:

- Clam Chowder & Strawberry Shortcake on the Town Green
- Sawmill Demonstrations / Activities at Sawmill Park
- Nathan Lester House - Museum Tours/Picnic/Events
- Red, White & Blue 5K Color Run
- Historic Movie on the Town Green
- Ledyard Music - Band/Chorus Involvement
- Beatification Committee - Red, White & Blue Flowers
- Banner Signs in Front of Town Hall
- Storytelling
- Reenactments
- Historical Document on display Bill Library (possibly a traveling display)
- Music/Concert at UMCGF (Ron Miller contact)
- Special Summer Camp Programming
- Special Voting Stickers for Elections
- Partner with local businesses to offer America 250 Anniversary deals and specials (create a special window sticker for participants)
- Time Capsule
- Period Specific Crafts
- Historic Play
- Town Historian - speaking/storytelling opportunities (Elementary Schools?)

- Distribute pocket Constitutions (Elementary Schools)
- Memorial Day Parade Float
- “Fog of War” movie screening @ Nathan Lester House
- Haunted Graveyard Tours
- Ledyard 250 Mural featuring Ledyard Landmarks
- Virtual Tour Series of Historical Sites
- Celebrate America 250 Challenges (ex: 250 acts of community service, memorize the Declaration of Independence, cooking contest)
- Commemorative Bell (opportunity to purchase a commemorative bell and sell sponsorships)

Marketing & Communications

The Committee discussed the following Marketing & Communications initiatives to support the America 250 events:

- Create “Ledyard Celebrates America 250” Logo
- Town Webpage/Calendar dedicated to America 250 Events (potential to raise funds through sponsorships)
- Yard Signs (opportunity for sponsorship)
- Dedicated Facebook Page
- Printed Flyers
- Ledyard Events Magazine (Run a “save the dates” in the summer Edition)
- Digital Signs

Grant Opportunities

Mayor Allyn will share information regarding America 250 grant opportunities through the State. Ms. Khors volunteered to assist with the Grant process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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