



Chairman Gary St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339
<http://www.ledyardct.org>
Administrative Assistant
Roxanne M. Maher
860 464-3203

HYBRID FORMAT
MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION
SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

6:15 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Brunelle at 6:17 p.m. at the Council Chambers - Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Brunelle welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion 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
April Brunelle	Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm
Adrienne Parad	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm
Ty (Earl) Lamb	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm
Scott Johnson, Jr.	Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Director	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm
Cory Watford	Resident	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	In-Person	6:17 pm	6:39 pm

- III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION – None.

- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Community Relations for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Regular Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2026

Moved by Councilor Parad, seconded by Councilor Lamb

VOTE: 3 – 0- Approved and so declared

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Primary Care for All Americans.

- Help volunteers working on the Primary Care for All Americans Initiative to conduct needed Surveys.

Councilor Parad stated that she provided three example Resolutions (Scituate, New Bedford, and Central Falls) for the Committee to review and to consider drafting a “*Town Council Resolution Supporting Primary Care for All Americans*” to help advance the Primary Care for All initiative.

Councilor Lamb noted that he liked both the New Bedford Resolution and the Central Falls Resolution.

The Committee agreed to use language from these two documents to draft a Resolution for further discussion at their June 17, 2026 meeting.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

2. Recognition of Colonel William Ledyard and Commemorate the Battle of Groton Heights.

Councilor Lamb stated that he visited the Groton Bill Library to talk about the possibility to have Colonel Ledyard’s Sword. He provided some background noted the following:

- Colonel William Ledyard was born on December 6, 1738 in Groton; and died at the age of 42 on September 6, 1781 during *The Battle of Groton Heights*.
- The Town was named after Colonel William Ledyard was Revolutionary War Patriot. who died in the defense of Fort Griswold against the British in *The Battle of Groton Heights*, Also, two Black Soldiers were also killed, one who was defending Colonel Ledyard, and one who killed the commander of the British Troops as he was coming over the wall.
- Colonel Ledyard’s Memorial Gravesite is in the Colonel Ledyard Cemetery on Mitchell Street, Groton; and his sword was on display in the Groton Bill Library.

Councilor Lamb noted the next step was to set up a meeting with the Library Director at the Groton Bill Library to discuss the possibility to display Colonel Ledyard’s Sword on one of his farm wagons that was going to be in n the Memorial Day Parade. He stated they were working to building a theme around Colonel Ledyard.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

3. Women’s History Month (March)
- Linda C. Davis Woman of the Year Award

Councilor Brunelle stated the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion received a number of Nominations for the Linda C. Davis Woman of the Year Award. She noted that based on the Committee’s review they have selected Ms. Lee Ann Berry. She stated all of the Nominations were dedicated members of their community, noting that the decision was challenging. She stated the Linda C. Davis Woman of the Year would be presented at the Town Council’s June 10, 2026 meeting.

Councilor Lamb stated because all of the nominations were great, that perhaps when they present the Linda C. Davis Woman of the Year Award they could also mention some of the other women in their community that were also nominated.

RESULT: COMPLETED

4. Discussion regarding the Jewish Community/Asian Community (May)

Councilor Parad stated that she would like to acknowledge that May was Jewish-American Heritage Month and Asian-American Heritage Month.

RESULT: COMPLETED

Councilor Brunelle noted in the interest of time this evening the Committee would skip over a number of items, noting that they had a Town Council Meeting immediately following this meeting at 7:00 p.m.

5. Discuss the Foster Care Community.- No Action

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

6. Identify various town venues to host “2026 *Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions. - No Action.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

7. Discussion regarding the Pride Pizza in the Park (June).

Councilor Brunelle stated the Pride Pizza in the Park would be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Town Green. She stated the Congregational Church was interested in partnering again this year with the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. She stated that she has lined-up a D.J., a Face Painter, and Chet’s Italian Ice. She noted that she would be doing the balloons, and that they would be purchasing the pizzas from Fireside and that the Church would be helping with the purchase of the pizzas.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

8. Native America History Month (October). – No Action.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

9. Farmers Market Booths to highlight town services.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she has not reserved their booths at the Farmers Market for the Community Relations Committee yet, noting that she was hoping that they would be able to be at the Market 2 or 3 weeks.

Councilor Parad noted that she reserved the booths for the Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) months ago, noting that the booths spaces have already been assigned. She stated the Farmers Market would be starting next week.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

10. No Action
Coordinate and Support Town Organizations such as:
- Linda C. Davis Food Pantry
 - Citizens Helping Animals in Need (CHAIN)

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

11. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Crossover with Board of Education – No Action.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

12. Organizations for those with Disabilities -Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Month – No Action.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

13. Discuss Homeless Hospitality Center – No Action .

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

14. Discuss Immigrant Community – No Action.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainable CT AD Hoc Committee’s request as transmitted in their May 12, 2026 letter regarding the following:

- Host an Equity Training
- Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity

Councilor Brunelle noted that the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee was established by Res #004-2025/June 25 *“Town of Ledyard Resolution Supporting their Continued Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program and Establishing a Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee”*. The Ad Hoc Committee was working to achieve a Bronze Certification, which was based on a Points system. In their May 12, 2026 letter the Ad Hoc Committee requested the Town Council take the following actions to help the town obtain the needed Points for the Bronze Certification:

- Host an Equity Training
- Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity

Councilor Brunelle noted that Ledyard’s Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Nate Woody would be attending the Town Council’s meeting later this evening to provide information regarding the Sustainable CT Program. She noted that the requested actions needed to be completed by August, 2026.

The Committee agreed to work to schedule an Equity Training that would be similar to the Freedom of Information Act Training that was held on February 10, 2026. They also agreed to begin work to draft a Statement on Equity.

It was noted that although the Town did a number of these things when they started the Sustainable CT process in 2019, that due to Covid 19 Pandemic that the town's efforts were halted. Therefore, they would have to repeat some things because per the Sustainable CT Guidelines they needed to be completed within the last three (3) years.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding a Ledyard Town Council Facebook Page

- *America 250 Facebook Page*

Councilor Brunelle noted the America 250 Facebook Page; and she stated that she has heard comments that it was primarily about Colonel White History. She suggested that perhaps it could include more diverse and cultural history. Councilor Lamb stated that Kit Foster was the Town's Historian, and he suggested they ask Mr. Foster to provide some profiles of diverse historical things. He went on to state that the Historic District Commission and the Ledyard Historical Society has stories that would give them a pool of different subject matter that they could include on the America 250 Facebook Page. He stated that he would reach out to their Tribal neighbors to see if they would like to provide some information from their perspective during the Revolutionary War.

Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., noted that America 250 Committee Member Kate Khors was the administrator of the America 250 Facebook Page. He went on to state that the Library had information regarding the history and that there was a Traveling Poster Display of Ten Historic Ledyard Figures and how they contributed to Ledyard's future. He stated the Traveling Poster Display would be at the Libraries, Senior Center; and at the Farmers Market.

- *Town Facebook Page*

Councilor Lamb questioned whether this agenda item was specifically regarding the America 250 Facebook Page, or whether it was regarding Ms. Nancy Hellekson's April 28, 2026 email; and Chairman St. Vil's May 5, 2026 email referring Ms. Hellekson's suggestion to their Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Councilor Brunelle noted that Ms. Hellekson's suggestion was to provide a Town Facebook Page where residents could post things and others could participate in group discussions as a way to improve communication between their elected officials and the community.

Councilor Parad noted that she liked that Councilor St. Vil found the *Ledyard News* link that was available on the Town's Website, noting that seemed to have been dormant for a while. She stated it was hard to know what kind of information residents were looking

for, noting that there was a lot of information. She suggested that perhaps Councilors could send information to MIS Director Justin Dube to post to *Ledyard News* to bring attention to specific Agenda items.

Councilor Lamb stated that they could brainstorm and talk with their Liaison Assignments to get their input regarding communication for discussion at their next meeting. He stated it would be advantageous for the town to have non-partisan Facebook Page to get information out to residents. Councilor Parad noted the reasons she suggested all the town's Departments, Committees, and the Board of Education work to feed information to the MIS Department to post on the Ledyard News Page that the information would then becoming from the Town. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted what Councilor Parad described was how the Ledyard News Page was supposed to work.

Communication with Board of Education:

Councilor Lamb stated the Historic District Commission, Farmers Market Committee, Agricultural Commission, and Conservation Commission had a shared vision regarding initiatives that they could work with the School District to involve the kids with some of the real life things they were working on. He stated that he has started that conversation, noting that each side was brainstorming to get their ideas out, at which time they would get together to discuss the details.

Councilor Lamb commented on improving communication between the Town Council and the Board of Education. He suggested scheduling some Joint Work Sessions, noting that they could have a barbecue to meet and talk to breakdown barriers.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted on May 14, 2022 the Town Council held a "*Meet Your Elected Officials – Coffee & Donuts Gathering*" at the Nathan Lester House. She stated the event was on the Town's website and published in the newspaper, however, no one attended. Councilor Parad commented on the challenge they were facing, noting that people say they want information. Councilor Lamb stated that he was trying to facilitate a relationship between the Town Council and the Board of Education. Councilor Parad questioned whether the barbecue would be a potluck event.

Communicate with Youth

Councilor Brunelle noted that she would like to begin a Youth Town Councilor Program. Councilor Lamb stated that the Board of Education had a Junior Board of Education, noting that it took a long time to put the program together. He stated that the Program was actually driving their Student Government to become reengage and to have a voice in their environment.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 6/17/2026 6:30 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Councilor Brunelle moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Lamb.
3 – 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting was adjourned at 6: 39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Brunelle
Committee Chairman
Community Relations Committee