



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman Gary A. St. Vil

MINUTES
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Pro-tem Parad stated in Chairman St. Vil’s absence, that she was serving as Chairman Pro-tem and would be facilitating tonight’s meeting.

Chairman Pro-tem Parad called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Pro-tem Parad welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the members of the Town Council and 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-Legistar Meeting Portal.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. ROLL CALL –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
William Barnes	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Ty (Earl) Lamb	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Adrienne Parad	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Excused	
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Excused	
James Thompson	Town Councilor	Present	Remote

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Nate Woody, 770 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry, Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Chairman, thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak with them this evening. He stated 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”. He noted the Committee began its work in early 2026 and has since been pursuing certification through Sustainable CT.

Mr. Woody went on to explain that Sustainable CT was a voluntary Certification Program that recognizes Connecticut Municipalities for fostering resilient and thriving communities. He stated participation in the program creates opportunities for grant funding that could support economic well-being, advance equity, and promote responsible stewardship of natural resources. The program also provides a broad range of actions designed to encourage best practices for municipalities of all sizes.

The Certification Process had two components:

- (1). Completion and documentation of Sustainable CT actions to earn the number of points required for the desired level of certification.
- (2). Completion of an Equity Toolkit Actions, which was a proactive effort to engage the community on a specific topic.

Mr. Woody continued by explaining that the Points earned through the program generally remain valid for three years, while some points were for longer periods of time; and some points do not expire at all. As a result, any points applied toward the Town's initial Bronze Certification would remain available should the Town Council choose to appoint a future Ad Hoc Committee to pursue a higher level of Certification. He stated that there were only two dates during the year that Municipalities could assemble and submit their packet to seek Certifications.

Mr. Woody stated after reviewing the requirements for each certification level and consulting with Sustainable CT Representatives, the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee determined that the Bronze Certification was the most appropriate goal for Ledyard. He stated because the Committee was only authorized for one year, their objective was to deliver a Certification consistent with the Town Council's charge. This effort would also position the Town for future advancement by ensuring that the necessary documentation and foundational work was in place. He stated should the Town later choose to pursue the Silver Certification, that the substantial groundwork would have already been completed. He noted the Bronze Certification required a total of 200 Points, as well as the completion of one Equity Toolkit Action, which had to be completed within the last three-years.

Mr. Woody continued to explain as the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee worked through this process, they identified the following two areas in which the Town Council's support would help ensure the Town's ability to achieve the Bronze Certification level:

- ***Host equity training for municipal staff and/or elected officials:***

Mr. Woody explained that there were several options for fulfilling this requirement. He stated Sustainable CT offered a training program, and the Connecticut State Education Resource Center also provides relevant training opportunities. He noted there was no cost associated with the training, and it does not impose additional municipal obligations beyond strengthening the understanding of equity at the municipal level; and how a more inclusive community could benefit residents as a whole. He stated the only requirement was that the training be conducted live, either in person or virtually; noting that recorded webinars do not qualify. He stated to the Ledyard's Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee's knowledge; no such training has been completed within the past three-years. He stated as was done this past winter (February 10, 2026) with the Freedom of Information Act Training (FOIA) that; the Town could hold two training sessions, one during the day for staff; and one in the evening for elected officials and volunteers

- ***Develop and adopt a Statement on Equity:***

Mr. Woody explained that a "*Statement on Equity*" called for the development and public adoption of a statement reflecting the community's shared vision of equity. He stated the creation of Ledyard's Sustainable Ad Hoc Committee demonstrated the Town Council's and the Town's commitment to this principle; and by adopting a formal statement it would provide Ledyard with a clear and locally grounded expression of that commitment. He noted the Ad Hoc Committee could provide examples from other Connecticut municipalities, stating that such a statement could be drafted without difficulty to affirm that Ledyard supported policies and practices that encourage open and inclusive participation by all residents, regardless of social, cultural, racial, or intellectual differences. He stated the Town Council's existing support for School Climate Statements, and a Diversity and Inclusion Committee already reflected these values, and this action would formally articulate them.

Mr. Woody concluded by stating that there were no direct costs associated with this action beyond the Town Council's time to draft, discuss, and adopt such a *Statement of Equity*. He stated while the *Statement of Equity* would not create a financial obligation, that it would provide a clear expression of the Town's vision and continued commitment to equity for all residents. He stated to the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee's knowledge, that neither the qualifying training; nor the adoption of a *Statement of Equity* has occurred within the past three-years. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee was looking for the Town Council's confirmation and commitment to participate in the Certification Process. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee was available to help provide resources to achieve these goals; and he noted that he would be happy to answer questions this evening and throughout this process.

The Town Council and Mr. Woody discussed the following:

- Both Sustainable CT; and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) would be available to provide the Equity Training at no cost to the town. Ledyard would only need to work with them to schedule a date for the training.
- The Spring, 2026 Sustainable CT Equity Training that three members of Ledyard's Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee already participated in was #1.21 and involved three 2-hour sessions. The Equity Training for staff, elected officials, and volunteers would be #1.22; and was a different training. There was no minimum attendance requirement.
- The Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee would include all documentation verifying that individuals attended the various Sustainable CT trainings. Whether those trainings were taken for the Sustainable CT Program or to seeking a Municipal Official Certification, they would provide Points toward the Town's Certification.
- Many Town Committee/Commission/Boards have been involved and working to do many of the requirements to help the Town achieve their Sustainable CT Certification. Conservation Commission Mr. Jim Harwood has done a great job reaching out to involve the town's various committees.
- Sustainable CT Certifications (Bronze, Silver, Gold) goal was focused on inclusion. The level that Municipalities achieved was based on striving to improve their practices; and less about getting access to more funding. However, completing the Sustainable CT Tool Kit Actions would provide access to funding.

Chairman Pro-tem Parad thanked Mr. Woody for his work and for his informative presentation this evening. She asked Mr. Woody to provide some examples of the *Statements of Equity* that the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion could review to draft Ledyard's Equity Statement to present to the Town Council for adoption. She stated that hopefully the timing of the Equity Training would lend to the drafting of Ledyard's *Statement of Equity*. Mr. Woody stated he would be happy to provide some examples and he noted that Sustainable CT has great Equity Coaches that would be willing to attend the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Meetings to help guide the drafting of the *Statement of Equity*.

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS (COMMENTS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES) – None.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the following: (1) Ribbon Cutting Gales Ferry Plaza Mini-Mart May 23, 2026 - Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated on Saturday the Economic Development Commission hosted the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, noting that Mayor Allyn, III and State Representative Larry Pemberton were in attendance. She stated the Mini-Mart would be carrying produce, milk, eggs, butter, snacks, and other last minute items, noting that they were still adding new items to their inventory. She noted that it would be great to have a this kind of business on the Gales Ferry side of town; and she encouraged residents to support them; (2) Sustainable CT – Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that she has been taking some of the Sustainable CT trainings that were offered on-line in her efforts to seek a Municipal Official Certification. She stated the message of the trainings were: (a) “*Inclusion*” - giving everyone a voice to express themselves by bringing everyone to the table to improve things in their town for residents; (b) “*Equity*” does not necessarily mean that everything was *fair*, because individual needs were different. She stated although everyone could be given the same tools, that because everyone's needs may be different, those tools may not be good enough for all of them. She stated “*equity*” was to give each individual the tools they needed to succeed. She noted as an example that everyone may be given a pencil, however, someone in the group may need a pen. She stated anyone could take the trainings by visiting the Sustain CT website at <https://sustainablect.org/trainings-events/trainings-events-calendar>.

Councilor Lamb commented on the following: (1) Annual Budget Preparation Process – Councilor stated this was his first Budget Process serving on the Town Council. He suggested in preparation for next year’s Annual Budget that the Town Council work together to develop a list of items that were important to Ledyard to provide to their State Legislators. He noted as an example the importance of the Raised House Bill #5407, “*An Act Concerning State Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost Due to the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with a One Hundred Percent Permanent and Total Disability Rating*,”. He stated this was an opportunity for the Town Council to adopt Resolutions and to be more forceful with their State Legislators. He stated next year that perhaps the Town Council could brainstorm before starting the Annual Budget Process; and (2) Veterans Breakfast – Councilor Lamb noted that he and Councilor Parad attended the monthly Veterans Breakfast at the Fireside Restaurant in Gales Ferry. He stated it was the first Veteran’s Breakfast he attended and that he brought his Father, who was a 19 year veterans of the Holland Club, noting that before someone could be a veteran of the Holland Club they had to be 50-years qualified as a Submariner.

Councilor Buhle noted the following: (1) Middle School Production - Singing in the Rain – Saturday, May 23, 2026 - Councilor Buhle stated she attended the Middle School’s Production noting that it was fantastic; and (2) Harvard -Yale 159th Regatta, Saturday, June 6, 2026 - Councilor Buhle stated the first race would begin at 1:15 p.m. and a Regatta Festival would be held at Erickson Park from 12 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Councilor Barnes commented on the following: (1) Ledyard High School Music – Annual Pops Concert, May 29 & 30, 2026 – Councilor Barnes stated tickets were still available; (2) Memorial Day Parade May 24, 2026 – Councilor Barnes noted that it was disappointing that the Lions Club had to cancelled the parade due to heavy rain. However, he stated that they were planning a bigger America 250 Celebration Parade on June 27, 2026; (3) Ledyard Farmers Market – Councilor Barnes noted that the Farmers Market would kick-off the Season on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 and he noted that he was looking forward to attending the weekly event this summer.

Councilor Brunelle announced that May was Foster Care Community Month, and she noted for those who were thinking about being a Foster Care Family there were a lot of resources available. She also noted for those who needed help finding resources that she would be happy to help find the resources.

Councilor Thompson, attending remotely, gave a shout-out to *All Paws On Deck*, noting that he and his wife recently adopted their second puppy from the Organization. He stated this was fantastic Organization that helped to find homes for dogs that would not have survived. He noted they had a number of events coming up, with one being in late June, 2026

Chairman Pro-tem Parad stated although the month of May was winding down that she would like to acknowledge that May was Jewish-American Heritage Month and Asian-American Heritage Month.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2026
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Pro-tem Parad noted that a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight’s meeting, and he noted there were referrals listed.

X. FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET UPDATE

Chairman Pro-tem Parad stated we have *Good News!* the Budget was approved by the townspeople at the May 19, 2026 Referendum. She asked Councilor Buhle whether she would like to provide any updates regarding the Annual Budget Process.

Councilor Buhle stated the Townspeople approved the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 by a vote of 294 in-favor; and 208 opposed. She noted the next step in the process was for the Town Council to set the Mill Rate, which they would do at their June 10, 2026 meeting; noting the projected Mill Rate was 25.78; and would match the prior year's equalized mill rate.

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated although the Committee has not met since their last Town Council meeting, they had a number of items on tonight's agenda.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor Brunelle stated the Committee had a short special meeting prior to tonight's Town Council meeting. She noted that the Committee addressed the Linda C. Davis Woman of the Year Award stating the Committee received several nominations. She noted although the decision was difficult the Committee has selected a winner. She stated the Woman of the Year Award would be presented to the recipient at the Town Council's June 10, 2026 meeting.

Finance Committee

Councilor Buhle noted as previously mentioned this evening the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget passed at the May 19, 2026 Referendum. She noted because there was no new business the Finance Committee would be cancelling their June 3, 2026 meeting.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Thompson stated the LUPPW Committee's next meeting was scheduled for June 1, 2026.

Liaison Reports

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)

Councilor Thompson stated the WPCA met on May 26, 2026 and addressed the following: (1) Azuria Presentation - Councilor Thompson explained that Azuria reviewed the process to seal the sewer pipes using a plastic coating to address leaking pipes, cracked joints, and invasive root systems, etc.; (2) Lead and Copper Testing – The WPCA needed \$216,500 to perform the work required by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection; (3) Water Rate Fiscal Yr 2026/2027 – The WPCA did not recommend setting a water rate, and scheduled a Special Meeting for June 9, 2026 to continue to deliberate on setting the Water Rate.

Councilor Lamb noted his March 26, 2026 email, and he stated in watching the WPCA's May 26, 2026 meeting he had concerns that they have not yet set their Water Rate, noting that they appeared to have three different concepts regarding the water rates, which were needed to support their water operations, as well as maintain and make repairs to their aging capital infrastructure. Therefore, he questioned how the Town Council could work with the WPCA to help them pull this together, not only for this coming year, but going forward as well He stated that he wanted to feel comfortable that the Water Rates were determined based on a good analytical assessment to serve their customers properly.

Mayor Allyn, III explained that the WPCA had two separate budgets: (1) Water Operations; and (2) Sewer Operations. He stated because the WPCA purchased their water from Groton Utilities that when they raise their rates, that the WPCA would also have to raise their rates, otherwise the WPCA would be losing money every year, which has been the case. Therefore, he stated the WPCA needed to continue to revise their water rates in a reasonable way; and they were working to try to incorporate Groton Utilities proposed rate increases so they do not fall behind. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher stated in accordance with CGS Chapter 102, Section 7-239; which was cited in Ordinance #400-001 "*An Ordinance Creating a Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) for the Town of Ledyard*" the Town Council was required to approve the WPCA Water Rate annually; however, they were not required to approve the WPCA Sewer Rate. She noted the WPCA held a Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 before their Regular Meeting. However, based on Councilor Thompson's report the WPCA has not yet determined their Water Rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to forward to the Town Council for approval.

Councilor Thompson addressed the WPCA water rate noting at their May 26, 2026 meeting they were deadlocked in working to find a water rate that was fair and balanced for everyone. He stated the WPCA discussed the need for an additional \$216,500 to conduct the required Lead and Copper Study and whether this cost should affect the ratepayers, as well as private residences, and commercial business, noting that the WPCA did not appear to be prepared. Therefore, they have scheduled a special meeting for June 9, 2026 to continue their discussion and to forward a recommended water rate for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to the Town Council for their review and approval.

Ledyard Center Fire Department

Councilor Barnes stated he attended the Ledyard Center Fire Department's 75th Anniversary Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 16, 2026. He stated he had the opportunity to present the Firefighter of the Year Award to Bryce Johnson; and read the Mayor's Proclamation. He stated it was a pleasure to attend the event.

Conservation Commission

Councilor Lamb noted the Conservation Commission would be meeting on June 9, 2026

Ledyard Historic District Commission

Councilor Lamb stated the Commission met on May 18, 2026 and he reported on the following: (1) Commissioner Resignation – Councilor Lamb noted that Kelly Lamb stepped down from the Commission, noting that she served as the Recording Secretary and she managed their Social Media. The Commission thanked Ms. Lamb for her service; (2) Maintenance and Preservation of Historic Properties - Councilor Lamb explained work continues on the maintenance and preservation of the town's designated historic properties which included the Nathan Lester House, Up-Down Sawmill, and the Old School House. However, he noted Commission Member Doug Kelley's "*Blue Skyes*" visionary work, which previously seemed to be out of reach, was now driving people to do more things; (3) Historic Preservation Spicer Homestead Ruins – Councilor Lamb stated the Commission was bringing people to the site and were excited about this initiative and was working to draft their Study/Report; (4) Proposed Gales Ferry Design District – Councilor Lamb stated the Historic District Commission has gotten involved with the Design District Application to present to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilor Lamb stated the Historic District Commission's next meeting was scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Councilor Lamb stated the Historic District Commission, Farmers Market Committee, Agricultural Commission, and Conservation Commission have been discussing a joint initiative where they could work with the School District to involve the kids with some of the real life things they were working on. He noted as an example if Mr. Bruce Gartska's was having a Veterinarian giving the donkeys vaccines that it would be a good opportunity for the Vo-Ag Students to visit his farm to see this work being done live. He stated if these Committees had a Joint Meeting Calendar where all these events were listed and perhaps they could work something out with the School District.

Councilor Lamb went on to note as Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Nate Woody mentioned earlier this evening during his presentation, many of the town's committees were digging in to do their part to help the town achieve the points needed to obtain the Bronze Certification.

Agricultural Commission

Councilor Lamb stated the Agricultural Commission held a Joint Land Use Meeting on May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. He noted their next regular meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2026.

Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Process for Capital Improvement Projects

Councilor Lamb stated the Committee's Organizational Meeting was held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. He noted the Committee elected Mr. Joseph Gush to serve as its Chairman and Mr. Brandon Graber as their Recording Secretary.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III reported on the following: (1) Water Pollution Control Authority – Lead and Copper Analysis Study – Mayor Allyn noted the \$216,500 Councilor Thompson mentioned, explaining that these funds were specifically to conduct a Lead and Copper Study as required

by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). He stated about a year ago, he reported that after finding lead in the Flint, Michigan water supply the Federal EPA was requiring every public water

system to conduct an analysis of their systems' piping. He stated because Ledyard's water system was relatively new they already know that their system was constructed with plastic piping; noting that it was not like Norwich, New London, or New York City's water system where they used lead piping. However, he stated that there was no exception, all public water systems were required to conduct the Lead and Copper Analysis Study. He stated the current practice was to dig up the water pipes with excavator equipment to show that the pipes were not lead. He also noted that another way to conduct the water pipe analysis was to use ground penetrating radar. He went on to explain that it was incumbent on the WPCA to come to the Town Council because they do not have the \$216,500 to conduct the Feder EPA Lead and Copper Analysis Study; (2) Sewer System Pipe Sealing - Mayor Allyn thanked State Senator Cathy Osten and State Representative Larry Pemberton for submitting a \$1 million State Bond Request for Ledyard to seal its sewer system. He explained the process would put polyethylene into the piping and a balloon would inflate against the walls of the existing piping to create a new lining inside their pipes. He stated sealing sewer pipes was a cost effective process and would add about 50 – 60 years of life to their current sewer system, specifically in the Highlands area. He went on to explain that currently their sewer system has ground water that seeps into the system as well as sewage that seeps out of the system. He stated by sealing the sewer pipes that both seepage issues would be remediated and it would improve the efficiency of their Wastewater Treatment Facility, noting that when they have heavy rain storms that in addition to treating the sewage, that they were also treating the ground water that has penetrated the system; (3) Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund (LICEAF) May 14, 2026 Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the meeting at which a grant request was approved for a Ledyard resident. He stated this Emergency Fund was used to help residents with expenses such as rent, utilities, auto repairs, etc.; (4) Southeastern Connecticut Council of Government (SCCOG) Housing Allocation Policy Committee May 14, 2026 Meeting – Mayor Allyn explained that the Committee has been reviewing the new Public Act 25-1 was regarding housing; and working to determine the needs in terms of workforce housing, affordable housing, etc. for each town; (5) Connecticut America 250 Meeting – Mayor Allyn noted at the Town Council's May 13, 2026 meeting he reported that he applied for a \$750 grant, which was recently approved. He stated although it was not a lot of money that it would help the Town with its planned America 250 activities this summer; (6) Council of Small Towns (COST) Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated they discussed a lot of good Legislation this year, which included the 100% Veterans Tax Exemption and House Bill 5407. However, he stated none of COST's proposals made it through the State's process; (7) Milestone Nuclear Disaster Practice Drill – Mayor Allyn stated he along with Ledyard's emergency management, first responders, and others participated in the Practice Drill during which Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on-site. He stated Ledyard was required to participate in these Nuclear Disaster Drills noting that annually Ledyard received about \$25,000 - \$30,000 from the Emergency Management Performance (EMPG) Grant Program. He stated an evaluated Drill will be held on June 23, 2026 during which time Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would evaluate how Ledyard responded to various scenarios, etc.; (8) Former Mayor Joseph Lozier 1991- 1994 – Mayor Allyn stated that he attended the calling hours on May 22, 2026 for Ledyard's Fourth Mayor Joseph Lozier who served 1991-1994. He noted that former Mayor Lozier passed away on May 10, 2026 after a battle with cancer; (9) Ribbon Cutting – Plaza Mini-Mart – Mayor Allyn thanked Councilor Garica-Irizarry for also attending the Ribbon Cutting on May 23, 2026. He noted the avocados were perfect and that it was a great spot; (10) Memorial Day Parade – Cancelled – Mayor Allyn noted that based on the predicted heavy rain that the Lions Club cancelled the May 24, 2026 Memorial Day – America 250 Parade. He stated it was rescheduled to Saturday, June 27, 2026 with a rain date of Sunday, June 28, 2026; (11) Opioid Settlement Funding – Mayor Allyn noted that Ledyard would be receiving another Opioid Settlement Funding disbursement in the amount of \$11,507.53 around mid to late-July, 2026. He noted funding from this Settlement was expected to be received through 2030; (12) Ledyardct.gov website – Mayor Allyn stated that currently Ledyard's website was Ledyardct.org; however, he stated the Federal Government wanted all government websites to be .gov. Therefore, he stated MIS Director Justin Dube and his staff have been working to transition the town's website to .gov and to make the website better and more user friendly. He stated the search functions for the new website were vastly improved

and much quicker. He stated that Mr. Dube would like to receive feedback from the Town Council on the new website layout. Councilor Barnes noted that Mr. Dube did send the Town Council the link to the new town website for their review and comments.

Questions to the Mayor

WPCA Lead and Copper Analysis Report

Councilor Barnes questioned whether they could test the water coming out of the pipes for Lead and Copper. Mayor Allyn explained that many of the older homes were constructed with copper pipes and that the solder used had lead. Therefore, he stated if they tested the water coming out of the tap in the homes that it may have lead and copper. He stated that it would not mean that the copper and lead was coming from the water system, noting that it would be coming from the home. He stated they also explored using camera systems in the water lines, however, he stated that it failed.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted WCA Chairman Ed Lynch had mentioned that the WPCA would be applying for grant funding for the Lead and Copper Analysis Study; therefore, she questioned whether they were able to secure some grant funding. Mayor Allyn the WPCA did want to apply for grant funding, however, he stated because the timing was critical that he expected that the WPCA would be coming to the Town Council next month; and that he hoped the WPCA would be prepared to talk about the grant opportunity.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administration Committee

1. MOTION to adopt the proposed Social Services Coordinator job description as presented in the draft date May 5, 2026.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Human Resources Director Christine Dias, attending remotely via Zoom, explained that the proposed Social Services Coordinator job description was a new part-time (about 8 – 10 hours per week), non-union position. She stated the Social Services Coordinator would work with the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry; Holiday and Seasonal Programs such as the Backpack Program, Holiday Baskets, Toy Drives, Adopt a Family. In addition they would work with Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Fund (LICEAF), United Way, the Mayor, and others. She went on to note that this position would also serve as the Municipal Agent for the town, which was required by State Statute.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted at the Administration Committee's May 13, 2026 meeting they corrected the Senior Citizens age from 60+ to 55+.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that former Mayor Executive Assistant/Social Services Coordinator Kristen Chapman was handling all of this work, that was now taking three positions to do. She expressed her appreciation for all the work that Ms. Chapman did for the town while she was working for the Mayor.

Councilor Lamb noted the "Physical Demands" paragraph stated the following:

"The employee must be free from mental and/or physical disorder which would interfere with the performance of duties as described, and have the ability to maintain his/her composure with the public and co-workers in every day stressful and emergency situations. Employee may occasionally have to function in situations where subjected to aggressive verbal behavior."

Councilor Lamb stated when he worked with individuals with disabilities in coaching handicap soccer teams that their opponents were always amazed on their ability, noting in many cases the handicapped soccer team won the game against able body people. Therefore, he questioned who would make the decision as to whether the applicant's disability would interfere with their performance of the job.

Human Resources Director Christine Dias stated the language Councilor Lamb referenced was standard language that was included in all of the town’s job descriptions. She stated if someone was qualified for the position that the town would make the American Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations for the individual to perform the job.

Councilor Barnes noted that the “*Physical Demands*” paragraph listed what those physical demands were as follows:

“While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to speak and hear; walk; sit; stand; bend; stoop; kneel, use hands and fingers to handle, feel or operate objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms, use wrist for repetitive motion. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision and the ability to adjust focus. Hand/eye coordination is necessary to operate computer and various pieces of office equipment.”

Councilor Barnes stated that the description provided in the paragraph above sets the standards of what the expectations were. He stated if an individual was not capable of performing those duties that an accommodation request could be made. However, he stated the job description as written does include the physical demands specifications.

Councilor Lamb questioned who the arbitrator and decision maker was with regard to whether a candidate was *free from mental and/or physical disorder which would interfere with the performance of duties as described*. Human Resources Director Christine Dias explained that she conducts the first review of the applications to verify candidates met the job qualifications, the applications were then reviewed by the committee/department looking to fill the position, interviews were then scheduled, and the hiring committee would perform the overall decision. She stated the physical demands would only come up if there was an issue after the individual was hired.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

2. MOTION to endorse the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission proposal to dedicate the new pavilion Lantern Hill Road Park in the name of Janet Barnett (Janet Barnett Pavilion).

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Background (Town Council January 25, 2023 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting):

Mr. and Mrs. Graham purchased a piece of land on the twenty-six acre Bush Pond body of water, which was parallel to Long Pond. After removing a number of dilapidated cottages and cleaning up the property at their own expense, opening up the property and making it more accessible, they offered the Town the opportunity to lease 0.8 +/- acre parcel of the Pond for 99-years for \$10.00 annually to be used as a waterfront park for passive (non-motorized) recreation such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, etc. While the lease indicated that the Town could not construct a building on the parcel, they could put in a gazebo for picnicking, and a porta-john.

Discussion: Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., provided some background explaining that the Parks & Recreation Commission was building a new park at the Lantern Hill Valley Pond, which the Town was leasing for 99-years from Mr. and Mrs. Graham to be used for public non-motorized passive recreation. He explained the new park would include a boat launch for non-motorized watercraft, two parking lots, a pavilion, and picnic tables.

Mr. Johnson continued by noting that Mrs. Sandy Fedors approached the Park, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission explaining that the JB Memorial Grant was created by monies that Ms. Janet Barnett left after her passing last year to be used to create and support projects that enhance community spaces. He noted that Mrs. Fedors applied for and received \$5,000

from the JB Memorial Grant, which she has chosen to donate toward the purchase of the Lantern Hill Valley Park Pavilion.

Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Barnett was a lifelong Ledyard resident and a strong community advocate, noting the many things she did were included in the letter that was attached to the agenda packet on the meeting portal. He stated Ms. Barnett gave a lot to the town, and was deserving of this dedication; and he hoped the Town Council would agree. He stated a Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony would be held once the Pavilion and Park were completed.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

- MOTION to endorse the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission proposal to dedicate the Senior Center Fitness Room in the name of Paula Crocker (Paula Crocker Fitness Center).

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., provided some background explaining that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding was specifically awarded to the Senior Center. He stated among the projects the Senior Center decided to use the funding for was to build a Fitness Center. He stated Ms. Paula Crocker was a dedicated volunteer noting in serving on the Senior Citizens Commission Ms. Crocker delivered TVCCA Meals on Wheels; helped Jimmy in the kitchen with meal preparations, she called bingo once a week and she actually bought the prizes too. He stated that it was Ms. Crocker idea, along with Ms. Carol Schneider, to start their Senior Prom. He noted that Ms. Crocker understood the need to bring younger Senior Citizens into the Center and was instrumental in advocating for building the Fitness Center. In addition, Ms. Crocker also served on the Housing Authority as their Recording Secretary; and collaborated with the Beautification Committee to create teacup flowers for Valentine's, and wreaths for Christmas. He stated unfortunately Ms. Crocker passed away a few weeks ago; and was sorely missed, noting that it now takes seven volunteers to do the work Ms. Crocker did for the Senior Center and for the Town.

Mr. Johnson concluded by stating the Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission believed that it was appropriate to dedicate the Fitness Center to Ms. Crocker and that he hoped the Town Council would agree with naming it the *“Paula Crocker Fitness Center”*.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

- MOTION to appoint the following Members to the *“Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Separation of the Planning Commission & Zoning Commission”* a for six-month term in accordance with Res#002-2026/Mar 25:

- **One Member from the Community-at-Large with Planning experience:**
Mr. Tony Capon (D) 37 Silas Deane Road, Ledyard
- **One Member from the Community-at-Large with Zoning experience**
Mr. Kevin Dombrowski (R) 139 Meetinghouse Lane, Ledyard
- **One Member from the Planning & Zoning Commission**
Ms. Beth Ribe (U) 129 Rose Hill Road, Ledyard

- **One Member from the Community-at-Large**

Mr. Milton (Dave) Schroeder, Jr., (U) 290 Whalehead Road, Gales Ferry

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted several residents submitted appointment applications to serve on this short-term Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate whether the Planning & Zoning Commission should remain as one Commission or whether they should be separated into two separate Commission.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went on to note at the Administration Committee’s May 13, 2026 meeting they reviewed each of the Applications to narrow the selection down to the five positions the Ad Hoc Committee called for. She stated the selection process was difficult noting each of the candidates had great experience, and the background needed for this initiative. She stated the Committee recommended the slate presented this evening for the following reasons:

- Mr. Tony Capon previously served as the Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman.
- Mr. Kevin Dombrowski was a former Town Council Chairman and also served as the Chairman of the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee, and he previously served as the Zoning Commission Chairman.
- Ms. Beth Ribe was currently serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Commission nominated Ms. Ribe to serve in this capacity.
- Mr. Milton (Dave) Schroeder, Jr., has been an active member in the community often speaking at meetings on topics such as the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Councilor Garcia- Irizarry noted the Administration Committee would address the Town Council Representative at their June 10, 2026 meeting. She stated that it was exciting to have so many residents interested in serving their community.

Councilor Lamb stated he believed they were getting so much interest from residents to participate on town committees was because some of the initiatives this Town Council has taken up were being driven by the community. He stated it was good to see so many residents getting involved.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

5. MOTION to appoint Mr. David Gruszkowski (R) 26 Saw Mill Drive, Ledyard, to the Retirement Board to complete a three (3) year term ending January 20, 2029 filling a vacancy left by Ms. DeGaetano.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Lamb stated Mr. Gruszkowski was a Program Manager for the Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) and worked onsite at Electric Boat/General Dynamics. He stated Mr. Gruszkowski recently retired and that he supported his appointment to the Retirement Board.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated with the appointment of Mr. Gruszkowski that there was still two Alternate Member vacancies for anyone who was interested in serving on the Retirement Board. She noted the importance of Alternate Members on the Town’s Committees.

It was noted that the Retirement Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Councilor Buhle noted the importance to maintain “Minority Representation” stating with the appointment of Mr. Gruszkowski the Board would have four Republicans and one Democrat.

CGS Section 9 -167 a Minority Representation was noted as follows:

“...(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the maximum number of members of any board, commission, legislative body, committee or similar body of the state or any political subdivision thereof, whether elective or appointive, who may be members of the same political party, shall be as specified in the following table:

“The maximum number of members of any board, commission, legislative body, committee or similar body of the state or any political subdivision thereof, whether elective or appointive, who may be members of the same political party, shall be as specified in the following table:”

Total Membership	Maximum from One Party
3	2
4	3
5	4
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	6
More than 9 Two-thirds of Total Membership	

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

- MOTION to appoint Mr. Gary Schneider (D) 101 Inchcliffe Drive, Gales Ferry to the “*Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Process for Capital Improvement Building Projects for the Town of Ledyard*” as the Representative from the Community at Large with Construction Management Experience, for six-month term in accordance with Res#002-2026/Feb 11.
 Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Buhle
 Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the Administration Committee received two appointment applications to serve on the *Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Process for Capital Improvement Building Projects* as the Representative from the Community-at-Large. She stated Mr. Schneider was a current member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) and that he was the Public Works Director for the Town of Waterford, noting that he had experience with projects.

Councilor Lamb stated he supported the appointment of Mr. Schneider to the *Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Process for Capital Improvement Building Projects*. He noted the Ad Hoc Committee held their Organizational Meeting on May 21, 2026 and elected the following officers: Mr. Joe Gush as Chairman; and Mr. Brandon Graber as the Recording Secretary. He stated this was a short-term 6-month assignment and the Committee would be meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

7. MOTION to appoint Ms. Anne Roberts-Pierson (U) 4 Anderson Drive, Gales Ferry, as a Regular Member to the Historic District Commission, to complete a five (5) year term ending December 6, 2029; filling a vacancy left by Ms. Lamb.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that Ms. Roberts-Pierson was currently serving as an Alternate Member on the Historic District Commission. She noted with the resignation of Ms. Kelly Lamb the Historic District Commission requested Ms. Roberts-Pierson be appointed as a Regular Member.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

8. MOTION to appoint Ms. Kim Millar (U) 6 Riverside Place, Gales Ferry, as an Alternate Member to the Historic District Commission, to complete a five (5) year term ending December 6, 2028; filling a vacancy left by Ms. Roberts-Pierson.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that the Administration Committee received two appointment applications to fill one vacancy on the Historic District Commission. She noted based on their education and experience that both candidates would have been an asset to the Commission. She stated that the other candidate’s application would be kept on-file and that she hoped when another vacancy becomes available on the Historic District Commission that she would still be interested in serving the town.

Councilor Barnes stated at the May 13, 2026 Administration Committee Meeting that Historic District Commission Chairman Parkinson noted that they did not have a member from the Gales Ferry District. He noted because Gales Ferry was a very historic part of their town that Chairman Parkinson thought that having a member from Gales Ferry would be a good addition. Councilor Barnes stated that he supported Ms. Millar’s appointment to the Historic District Commission.

Councilor Lamb stated that Ms. Millar was a long-term resident of town from the Gales Ferry District area, noting that she was excited to serve on the Historic District Commission. He stated the Historic District Commission was getting into different aspects of their work, and he noted the diversity amongst the Commission Members included Dr. Ammie Chittum, who was Registered Archeologist and was excited about the Spicer Homestead Ruins. He stated Ms. Millar was a member of the Chapman family and he supported her appointment to the Historic District Commission.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

9. MOTION to reappoint Ms. Sarah Martic (R) 59R Long Pond Road, South, Ledyard, to the Ledyard Farmers’ Market Committee for a three (3) year term ending May 9, 2029.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated Ms. Martic has served on the Farmers Market Committee for many years, noting that both the Committee and her respective party have endorsed her reappointment.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

10. MOTION to appoint Mr. Jeremy Norris (D) 12 Old Fort Lane, Ledyard, as an Alternate Member to the Ledyard Farmers’ Market Committee to complete a three (3) year term ending February 26, 2029 filling a left by Mr. Hary.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry addressed the importance of Alternate Members, noting that Mr. Norris has expressed an interest in serving on the Farmers Market. She stated Mr. Norris was an active member of the community noting that he was currently serving on the Water Pollution Control Authority and that his appointment has been endorsed by his respective party.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle , Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

Finance Committee

11. MOTION to authorize the expenditure of up to \$7,000 from Account #21090305-58920 (Acquisition of Open Space) to support a Long Pond Invasive Species Study.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Buhle explained that Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) Member Terry Fedors attended the Finance Committee’s May 20, 2026 meeting to talk about an invasive species called Hydrilla that was impacting their water ways. She stated the Hydrilla attaches to the bottom of boats and when people bring their boats from one water body to another the Hydrilla was then able to contaminate other water bodies.

Councilor Buhle stated the Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) has requested funding to help support a Long Pond Invasive Species Study, noting that they have also obtain grant funding toward this effort. She stated tonight’s request was to allocate \$7,000 from the Town’s Open Space Account. She noted that Mr. Fedors was present this evening and she invited him to provide some additional background.

Mr. Terry Fedors, 25 Homestead Road, Ledyard, stated the Long Pond Invasive Species Study would be a two-year project and would cost about \$19,000. He stated the Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) has received a \$10,000 Grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP); and a \$2,500 Grant from the Eastern Connecticut Foundation. He noted that Lantern Hill Valley Association (LVA) was fundraising to support this effort and has come to the Town to ask for some funding to help support the Study.

Councilor Buhle stated many of the surround bodies of water have been infected by the Hydrilla; however, she stated that Long Pond has not yet been impacted by this invasive species, and they would like to keep it that way. She stated the Study would be conducted at Long Pond, Bush Pond, and Lantern Hill Pond.

Councilor Lamb stated Lantern Hill Valley Association (LVA) has been to the Conservation Commission in the past to seek support for various projects such as Boat Inspections. He stated a little prevention provides a lot of savings later on. Mr. Fedors stated he agreed with Councilor Lamb’s comment. He stated Hydrilla was first discovered in the Connecticut River, and in 2023 Hydrilla was found in the Connecticut East Lakes, which was about 569 acres. He stated last year and this year they were spending \$300,000 to fight this invasive species from spreading. He stated if they could detect the Hydrilla early and could isolate and contain it that the cost would be minimal. However, he stated once the Hydrilla takes root it would take over the whole pond.

Councilor Lamb commended Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) for their team approach to work with volunteers and solicit funding from a variety of sources to address this invasive species.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry asked for the benefit of the public, that Mr. Fedors explain the reason Hydrilla was so bad for their water bodies. Mr. Fedors noted at the Finance Committee's May 20, 2026 meeting he provided handouts showing how thick and dense the Hydrilla matt becomes, noting that they could not boat, paddle, or swim through it. He stated it affected the oxygen levels in the pond which impacts the fish, turtles, osprey, and other wildlife. He also noted that the Hydrilla would grow in water up to 25-feet deep which would cover about 81% of Long Pond and Bush Pond; or 89 acres of the 110 acres if was left unchecked; and about 24-acres of the 28-acres Lantern Hill Pond.

Mr. Fedors stated that he agreed with Councilor Lamb's comment about prevention, noting in Maine they have boat wash stations, boat inspectors, etc. However, he stated Connecticut was slow in working to get these things in-place.

Chairman Pro-tem Parad requested clarification, questioning whether the requested \$7,000 was to conduct boat inspections; or to conduct invasive species studies in the water bodies. Mr. Fedors explained that the boat inspections were totally different from what Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) was requesting this evening. He stated the requested \$7,000 would be used to hire a Certified Limnologist, who was a scientist that studies inland aquatic ecosystems. He stated the Limnologist would use different techniques as approved by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to look at all the aquatic plant species and their density along the parameter of all of the ponds and would report their findings to the State of Connecticut's Natural Diversity Data Base Program. He stated they would then make a determination on what they could do to effectively treat the invasive species found without impacting the native plants, wildlife, and the surrounding community. Therefore, he explained before they could do anything to treat or address Hydrilla the State of Connecticut required that they conduct this Study.

Mr. Fedors went on to note during the May 20, 2026 Finance Committee that Councilor Ryan mentioned that a few years ago Lantern Hill Valley Alliance (LVA) Member Betsy Graham appealed to the Town to seek funding to implement a boat inspection program. However, he stated the stumbling block at that time was that LVA did not have liability insurance which the State required to conduct boat inspections. He stated LVA has since gotten liability insurance.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

12. MOTION to authorize the Mayor to enter into a listing agreement with a Realtor to list 89 Town Farm Road for sale.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: Councilor Buhle stated there was a 8.2 -acre town property that they have owned since 1895, noting that it was listed in the Town's Land Records Book #8; page 1. She stated the neighboring property owner has expressed an interest to purchase the property. However, she explained that the Town could not just sell the property without listing it first. She went onto explain the 8.2-acre parcel was Zoned R-60; but that a good portion of the parcel was wetlands or flood plain. She noted the remainder of the parcel was large enough to build multiple houses.

Mayor Allyn, III stated because 89 Town Farm Road was across the street from the Water Pollution Control Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility he checked with them to see if the parcel was strategic for them. He explained because the parcel was located upstream from the WPCA Facility, that it was not a strategic parcel for them.

Councilor Buhle stated during the Finance Committee’s May 20, 2026 meeting they questioned which Town Department had Administrative Control of 89 Town Farm Road, noting that the property just existed and was owned by the Town.

Councilor Barnes questioned whether there were other town-owned properties similar to 89 Town Farm Road that the town could sell. Mayor Allyn stated there were some small lots around town in various subdivisions, noting that some may have been designated open space as part of the Conservation Subdivision Regulations. He also noted that some lots were not usable because there were drainage easements that run on to the property.

Councilor Lamb questioned whether 89 Town Farm Road would be of interest to any Conservation Organizations for trails. Mayor Allyn stated 89 Town Farm Road was not an open space parcel, and he noted because the right half of the parcel was primarily a flood plain that it was not a hiking parcel

VOTE:

7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

13. MOTION to establish a new Board of Education Non-Lapsing Fund in accordance with CGS 171-10-248.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: Councilor Buhle explained that creating a non-lapsing fund for educational purposes was a State Legislation requirement. She stated once the fund was created that any additional Board of Education funds would automatically be transferred into the non-lapsing fund after the Annual Audit was completed. However, she stated Town Council action was necessary for the first transfer the non-lapsing fund.

Councilor Lamb noted that there has been some bickering between the Town Council and Board of Education. Therefore, he questioned, as a courtesy, whether anyone circled back to the Board of Education Finance Director Kenneth Knight about creating this new fund. He stated he knew that the Town Council could go forward without the involvement of the Board of Education.

Councilor Buhle stated that she did not circle back with Board of Education Finance Director Kenneth Knight on this matter because creating the Non-Lapsing Fund was the path forward to meet the State Legislation’s requirement; and because Finance Director Matthew Bonin recommended this Fund be created to make sure Ledyard was following the process regarding the transfer of Board of Education surplus funds. She stated because this was what the State Legislation called for they did not have any options not to set up the Non-Lapsing Fund for educational purposes.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the Board of Education, including Finance Director Kenneth Knight, attended the Finance Committee’s February 4, 2026 meeting at which Auditor CliftonLarsonAllen Principle Stephen Gross presented the Annual Audit Report for June 30, 2025. She noted during that meeting Mr. Gross explained that Public Act #24-45 “*An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief*”; now allowed Connecticut Board of Educations to use *Non-Lapsing Accounts to carry over unspent education funds (up to 2% of the prior budget) for future Educational Expenses*. Therefore, she stated that Mr. Gross recommended the Board of Education have a Non-Lapsing Fund to be used for educational purposes.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went on to note the reason they were establishing this Non-Lapsing Fund now was because in their March 30, 2026 letter the Board of Education requested the Town Council transfer their Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 surplus in the amount of \$212,031 to their Capital Account. However, she noted during the February 4, 2026 meeting that Auditor Mr. Gross also explained that they would only want to allocate/reserve money to their Capital Non-Recurring Fund for Capital Projects; which would be things such as capital

grant funding, transfers made by the Town for capital projects, which were fixed assets, buildings, school renovations, new roofs, etc. She stated that Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated once the Board of Education's annual surplus was transferred to their Non-Lapsing Fund, that they could then vote to transfer funds to their Capital Non-Recurring Account.

Councilor Lamb stated he used to be the Board of Education Finance Committee Chairman; and he commented that it was his opinion that someone should have closed the loop with the Board of Education.

Councilor Barnes noted at the Board of Education's February 10, 2026 meeting they discussed a Non-Lapsing Account under the purview of SHB-05-437; paragraph 7 and 8. He stated they voted to approve making their Non-Lapsing Account to be the same Account as their Capital Non-Recurring Account. He stated at that time the Board of Education felt that they could do that in accordance with the State Statute. However, he stated if the Town Council was setting up another Non-Lapsing Account that there may be some conflict as to where the non-lapsing funds were going to.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted that the Zoom Invite and Town Council Agenda for tonight's meeting was forwarded to School Superintendent Hartling, Board of Education Chairman Jennifer Reguin, and the Board of Education.

Councilor Lamb stated that he agreed with Finance Director Matthew Bonin's recommendation, to set-up the Non-Lapsing Fund for educational purposes; however, he stated that he believed that they should work together so that they were all on the same page.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

14. MOTION to appropriate and transfer the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Audited Surplus in the amount of \$212,031 from Undesignated Fund Balance) to the newly established Board of Education Fund.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Buhle stated this action was to transfer the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Audited Surplus in the amount of \$212,031 to the new Non-Lapsing Account they established this evening. (see item #13 above).

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

15. MOTION to transfer Eversource Reimbursement in the amount of \$19,943 from Undesignated Fund Balance to the Board of Education's Capital Non-Reoccurring Account.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Buhle stated the Board of Education received \$19,943 from their Energy Audit. She explained when revenue such as this Eversource reimbursement come into the town that they were deposited into the Undesignated Fund Balance. Therefore, she stated this action was to transfer the money to the Board of Education's Capital Non-Reoccurring Account, as requested in their March 30, 2026 letter.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

General Items

16. Town Council’s 2026 Summer Meeting schedule.
 Chairman Pro-tem Parad noted that Chairman St. Vil suggested they cancel the second meeting of the months of June, July, and August. Those dates would be June 24; July 22; & August 26. She noted that the Town Council would meet on the following dates:

- ✓ June 10, 2026
- ✓ July 8, 2026
- ✓ August 12, 2026

Chairman Pro-tem Parad questioned whether anyone had an issue with cancelling any of those meeting dates.

Councilor Lamb stated that he did not think the Town Council should cancel any of their meetings, noting that they were elected to conduct the business of the residents.

Councilor Brunelle noted that the Town Council has typically cancelled meetings during the summer months, because of vacations and other scheduling conflicts, which would prevent the Town Council from having a quorum.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that the Administration Committee was working to bring the proposed “*An Ordinance Establishing a Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission for the Town of Ledyard*” to another Public Hearing. She stated if the Town Council cancelled their June 24, 2026 meeting that the Town Council would not be able to schedule the Public Hearing date until their July 8, 2026 meeting. Councilor Buhle questioned whether the Administration Committee and the Town Council could both vote to set a Public Hearing date at their June 10, 2026 meetings. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted that Chairman St. Vil would make the decision about including items from the Administration Committee’s June 10, 2026 onto the Town Council Agneda for that same evening.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher noted at the Administration Committee’s May 13, 2026 meeting the Committee discussed sending the draft Ordinance to the Town Council to review to be sure everyone’s comments were captured before sending the draft Ordinance to the Town Attorney for a final review, noting the most recent draft has not yet been sent to the Town Council. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she hoped that it could be done in parallel; and that the Administration Committee would be prepared to recommend a Public Hearing date at their June 10, 2026 meeting, noting that the last round of edits were minor changes.

The Town Council chose to agree to the follow summer meeting schedule by consensus:

<u>Meet on</u>	<u>Cancel</u>
June 10, 2026	June 24, 2026
July 8, 2026	July 22, 2026
August 12, 2026	August 26, 2026

Councilor Lamb expressed his disapproval to cancel any meetings.

RESULT:COMPLETED

IV. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Barnes
7 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Transcribed by Roxanne M. Maher
Administrative Assistant to the Town Council

I, Adrienne Parad, Chairman Pro-tem of the Ledyard Town Council,
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council
Meeting held on May 27, 2026.

Adrienne Parad, Chairman Pro-tem