



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman Karen
Parkinson

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex -Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Parkinson at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Douglas Kelley
Commissioner Ammie Chittim
Chairman Karen Parkinson
Commissioner Rebecca Watford
Commissioner Anne Roberts-Pierson
Alternate Alternate Member Vincent Godino
Alternate Member Kenneth Geer
Alternate Member Kim Millar

Kim Millar was present via Zoom.

Also in attendance:

Ty Lamb, Town Council, serving as the Commission's Liaison.

Erik Treaster, Resident.

Dave Schroeder, Resident.

Lee Ann Berry, Resident.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Mr. Shroeder said there is a public workshop to establish a Village District in Gales Ferry District on August 13, 2026. There will be feedback from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Berry said there will be a Gales Ferry District is holding a "Meet and Greet with the Neighbors" on August 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Other organizations are invited to set up tables for this event. Chairperson Parkinson said the Historic Commission should attend.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2026, as written.

Motion to APPROVE as amended.

Amendments:

- Add Mr. Godino to the votes.
- Change Rogerdine to Rogerine.
- Change Vino to Zinno.
- Change train to trail.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Rebecca Watford

SECONDER: Douglas Kelley

AYE 5 Kelley Chittim Parkinson Watford Roberts-Pierson

VI. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

1. Town Council Liaison - Councilor Ty Lamb.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, recommended that the Commission check the two CNR accounts to make sure they are re-established. Ty Lamb, Town Councilor reminded the Commission about the POCD.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, said the Commission might want to review the Stonington/North Stonington ordinance regarding Historic buildings for consideration.

Ty Lamb, Town Councilor, asked who would represent the Commission during talks with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, it was confirmed that person would be Ms. Chittim.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

1. General Report.

Chairperson Parkinson said the delayed Memorial Day Parade went well. The Commission had a banner and a reenactor dressed as Colonel Ledyard on a Horse. The parade goers enjoyed the horse, and he was a big hit.

Chairperson Parkinson reported that the Nathan Lester House had a large attendance on the 4th of July, she was very impressed.

Chairperson Parkinson said the Ruins were only visited once during the last month due to mugginess and insects; she is waiting for cooler weather to revisit. Also, a 3-D representation of the ruins is being prepared. The presentation will be given to the Town Council.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Financial Report.

Mr. Godino said not much has been expended yet for the new fiscal year.

Mr. Godino reminded the Commission that last year the Finance Department flip-flopped the Sawmill and NLH lines. He reviewed the budget lines for accuracy.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence.
None.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Sawmill Committee.

Mr. Godino shared a report that Mr. Gonang put together. The end of spring, beginning of the summer session, was successful, with plenty of water. Minor repairs and general cleanup of the Mill have taken place. Blacksmith shops and tool cleanup have completed. Adjustments to the saw frame bearings were made. The volunteer's summer project is working on the head gate. The volunteers reviewed historical photos which showed a much lighter construction of the head gate, which could have been manually operated. The volunteers are trying to decide which direction to go with the head gate. Mr. Ganong ordered two new saw blades. When ordered he had to specify the hardness of the blade. The blades were custom made and a good investment for the Sawmill. The Blacksmith shop should be operating in the Fall session. The hours tracked for the Spring season was at 200. There was a rotted post on the North end of the Mill that was repaired. Chairperson Parkinson said Mr. Ganong's write-up about the Sawmill's history and dam assessment (included in the agenda) were very valuable. Chairperson Parkinson said Mr. Ganong's was nomination as "Rotary Citizen of the Year". Chairperson Parkinson, Mr. Godino and Mr. Kelley attended the dinner at which Mr. Ganong gave a small speech.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nathan Lester House - Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley gave his Nathan Lester House report:

"Since our June meeting our main event has been hosting the July 4th celebration, organized by the Ledyard Historical Society with support from the America 250 Committee.

Due to the severe heat leading up to the day, many participants and exhibitors understandably chose to opt out. The Society chose to not cancel but to wisely move all activities indoors, save for garden tours and a children's water play area in the Great Lawn. Considering the heat, we were pleasantly surprised by the turnout, which began immediately on schedule and was estimated between 200 and 300 people. Mayor Allyn brought a cooler of ice cream sandwiches to hand out, and we had multiple other town officials attend. The public attending were largely from Ledyard and close by, and many had not visited the Museum before.

Previous to the July 4th event, a graduate of Ledyard High School held a small celebration in the Great Lawn on June 21st. The Historical Society held their annual meeting at the museum on June 27, following a trail walk and mini-concert arranged through CTTrails.

A representative of Preston's Historic Society has visited the Museum to gauge its suitability for a production of a play they have commissioned, based on letters from a local Revolutionary War soldier home to his wife. Flock Theatre will stage the production. The Historical Society has begun talks in collaboration with their Preston counterpart and if the partnership is successful, performances will be held in the Fall.

We have been fortunate in the recent weather events to have escaped real damage - especially from the microburst of the night of July 4. Other than a large branch of a tree across the drive from the house, there was nothing of significance. This past week the large cherry - just next to the first tree - also dropped a large branch into the drive. Public Works has removed and cleaned up both branches. We appreciate their partnership as always.

With the start of the new fiscal year, we are planning for regular maintenance as well as special projects, both with regular budget and capital funds."

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Research/Preservation - Ms. Chittim.

Ms. Chittim said all the equipment for the Archeological dig outreach program has been received and is being stored at the NLH. A few more items may be required later. The first test unit will be executed before the next meeting, and an excavation/research plan will be devised. Mr. Godino asked Ms. Chittim if she would be willing to visit the dam and give her professional opinion on the features of the dam.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Center School - Mr. Geer.

Ms. Watford gave a report on the Center School. Ms. Watford said there was a great start to the tour season. There have been some hiccups with the rain. The Center School was open during the cancelled Memorial Day parade (due to heavy rain) and a few people still visited. The Center School was not open during the 4th of July due to high-heat weather concerns. Ms. Watford brought photos of the door which showed the water leak in action. The Center School is registered for the "Back to School" bash, Ms. Watford will have a children's craft prepared. She asked for volunteers to help her with the event. Chairperson Parkinson said 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.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Social Media - Ms. Lamb.

Chairperson Parkinson asked for a volunteer to post on social media. Mr. Kelley and Ms. Watford said they would assist.

Mr. Kelley took this opportunity to announce that on July 25, 2026, there is a second workshop for the NLH Garden Shed from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. During this workshop they will be working on the actual timbers, not just the base.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion in response to Dave Schroeder's request for HDC assistance with Gales Ferry Historic District having local zoning recognition, continued.

Ms. Millar said that she and Mr. Kelley were asked to assist with the task of determining how the Historic District Commission can best support the proposal that Ledyard established criteria for Historic recognition of buildings, neighborhoods, landscape for the upcoming POCD. The POCD will guide future development and preservation of aspects of life in Ledyard that benefits all residents. Ms. Millar believes that continuity over time, respect for historic buildings and their preservation and consideration of these factors are crucial to people choosing to live in Ledyard. Mr. Millar added that residents have concerns of impact from future development. Ms. Millar said there are areas on Long Cove South and along Military Highway that should be considered for Historic designation. Ms. Millar encouraged the Commissioners to read the draft handed out by Mr. Schroeder and give feedback.

Mr. Schroeder said that the State Statutes explicitly states that Historic District Commissions can make Zoning proposals, recommendations and comments. Mr. Schroeder added that the Commission should check the Town Charter to make sure there is nothing there that would forbid the Commission from doing so. Mr. Kelley said before the Commission agreed to be the Applicant they checked the Charter and there was nothing found.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee Discussion: Action Item 5.5. continued.

Chairperson Parkinson said the deadline is getting closer, and the Commission needs to complete the sustainability report. Chairperson Parkinson would like to include an ordinance to protect stone walls. Chairperson Parkinson said landscapes are important to protect. The protection of the Gales Ferry Village could also be put in the report. The Commission has three assets which are 30 points each. Mr. Godino pointed out that the Town has 25 old cemeteries. The Commission needs to do a brief overview of events.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.
None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.
None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Karen Parkinson

SECONDER: Anne Roberts-Pierson

AYE 5 Kelley Chittim Parkinson Watford Roberts-Pierson

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