



TOWN OF LEDYARD  
CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
~ MINUTES~

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
<http://www.ledyardct.org>

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Monday, January 22, 2018

7:00 PM

Annex Meeting Room, Annex Building

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman Fossum.

II. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William Fossum	Chairman	Present	
Ellen Fossum	Commissioner	Present	
Vincent Godino	Commissioner	Present	
Doug Kelley	Commissioner	Present	
James Sweet	Commissioner	Present	
Ken Geer	Alternate Member	Present	
Lance Mayer	Alternate Member	Present	
Jay Pealer	Alternate Member	Present	

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not required.

IV. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

The December 18, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes were accepted.

**Monday, December 18, 2017**

V. REPORT OF FISCAL AGENT

Fiscal Agent Report: 1/17/2018 (See attached).

Fiscal Agent Report: 1/17/2018

VI. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Agendas and Minutes of other Commissions

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Sawmill Committee - Mr. ISweet
  - Mr. Sweet corrected the amount of donations as being \$190 and not \$140.

- On Saturday, January 20 there was a sawmill volunteer meeting to discuss the future of the shingle mill and upcoming projects including the back gutter, outside battens, blacksmith shop roof, grate below the race and tree removal.
- Mr. Ganong was available to discuss any questions on the shingle mill. In an effort to improve the inside displays, he has offered to make up an informational board on the shingle mill as he had for the turbine. Still to be determined are what needs doing on the shingle mill and costs and safety issues.
- Since the turbine is the most important piece of necessary equipment, looking for a possible replacement for it and fundraising for it will be researched.
- It was suggested that our commission consider having our meetings at the Sawmill and Lester House and Center Schoolhouse from time to time.
- Mr. Godino asked about a planer in storage in the back shed at the Lester House and it was determined that it was too dangerous to use at the Sawmill.
- The Sawmill Park sign should be reinstalled before April after Public works digs the holes. Mr. Sweet will arrange.

## 2. Lester House - Mr. Godino

- Mr. Godino reported that two more roofers are providing estimates on reroofing the house as well as Brian Crandall which will give us four to submit.
- We have been informed by Councilor Saums and the Mayor that funding is available to do the work as soon as we select a contractor and the weather permits and as long as the job is under \$15,000.
- Several panes of glass have blown out of the attic window on the south side of the carpenter's shop. Terry Moran who did work on the windows on the front of the Lester House will be contacted about replacing the panes.
- Public Works Director Steve Maslin was not aware that the north field was not cut this past year and said it could be done this spring/summer once new growth matures.  
Ellen Fossum suggested it be after the rabbits and birds were done nesting but before the swallowwort had formed pods after blooming which should be late June.
- Mr. Kelley and Mr. Godino met with Marcia Hancock, the Mayor, Bill Saums and Rebecca Lindner to go over the first service invoice covering October 1 through December 31. The

invoice included the negotiated fixed amount of \$2925 per quarter plus out of pocket expenses of \$140.15. Included was the contractors service log listing tasks performed and numbers of hours spent to perform. Arrangements for partial payments of electricity and fuel oil are still being worked out with the Finance Director.

- The front door weather stripping still needs repair.
  
- The Lester House thermostat which was repaired in December should be covered by the 3 year warranty on the new furnace system. Mr. Godino will contact Anderson Oil to correct any billing.
  
- The entrance sign indicating open Lester House hours needs work and Mr. Godino will get quotes.
  
- Mrs. Fossum reported that the Historic House brochures group will not be organizing a reprinting this year. We still have a small amount available.

3. **Research**  
No Report.

4. **Preservation**  
No Report.

5. **Center School - Mr. Geer**

- Mr. Geer said there was nothing new to report.
- Mr. Fossum said the west soffit and the north door stoop still need repair.

#### VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget**  
Mr. Fossum passed out his hand written proposed and itemized budget for the upcoming year.

2. **Any other old business to come before the Commission**

- Ellen Fossum wished to clarify that the Historic District Commission was established by State Statutes for the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of historic interest within the Town. This is unique in that the Town owns the Historic Districts.
  
- This has become necessarily complicated with the updating of the lease requiring a tenant/contractor legal agreement which is now the purview of Land Use and Finance. Our Commission business is not to be managing a municipal property, but rather to be preserving and protecting historic districts, places and buildings.

- Suggestions were given on how we all could do our jobs properly to avoid conflict and misunderstandings:
  - Understand the State Historic Preservation regulations, the Town Ordinances, the Town Fiscal Procedures and our own Rules of Procedure.
  - Keep the lines of communication open by discussing projects and expenditures before initiating.
  - Do our homework and follow through with projects.
  - Listen to others points of view and when objections arise, find a way to work together.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Election of Officers

Mr. Fossum explained that the Town Council had taken no action on his reappointment as a Commission member, so it was unclear as how to proceed with the election of officers.

Questions were asked of Councilor Saums for clarification. He did not know if the Town Council would take any action except to consider moving an alternate into a regular slot to replace Mr. Fossum. It was also not clear if Vice Chair Godino would automatically assume a vacant Chair position.

Mr. Godino raised the possibility that because there was uncertainty, perhaps this was a good time for a change of officers.

Mr. Fossum expressed an interest in remaining as Chair to follow through with current projects; and Mr. Godino also expressed interest in becoming Chair. Both were nominated but were later withdrawn as discussions continued.

Mr. Mayer suggested a compromise by suggesting that if Town Council decisions are still pending, perhaps changes would not be appropriate and it would be best to continue functioning with the existing officers.

Mr. Kelley concurred and moved to vote on remaining with the current slate of officers as we have done in the past.

2. MOTION to stay with the current slate of officers as follows: o Chairman Mr. Fossum o  
 Vice-Chairman Mr. Godino o Fiscal Agent Mr. Kelley o Clerk Mrs. Fossum  
 Moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Fossum

VOTE: 5 - 0 Approved and so declared

Following the vote all three alternate members expressed reservations about being considered as regular members

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Doug Kelley, Commissioner  
**SECONDER:** Ellen Fossum, Commissioner  
**AYES:** Fossum, Fossum, Godino, Kelley, Sweet

- 3. Any other new business to come before the Commission  
Mr. Kelley expressed interest in information on historical plaques on buildings in Town.  
Mr. Fossum said he would look up information from the past.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fossum moved to adjourn and Mr. Kelley seconded with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted for the Commission,

Ellen Fossum

Clerk

DISCLAIMER

**Although we try to be timely and accurate, these are not official records of the Town and there is no guarantee of such accuracy. The Official Minutes will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.**