
A Sense of Vision

Ledyard citizens want their town to remain a safe rural community but want to encourage business development that improves the quality of life for all. It is a community where family values, local culture and the environment are respected and protected. Residents have repeatedly stated at public meetings that they want economic development only if it does not degrade the quality of life in Ledyard.

Within this context, the Ledyard Economic Development Commission will strive to improve the financial condition of the community and employment choice for its citizens. It recognizes that the citizens want a community that insures that residential life is maintained, that the environment is respected and where community life is improved. It further recognizes that it must balance the needs of the citizens with those of the business community such that there is mutual gain. The Ledyard Economic Development Commission wishes to work with all elements of the community, including the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. It will seek out means and measures to insure that employment opportunities match the present and future expectations of the citizens and it will hopefully improve the quality of life for all of Ledyard's citizens.

The townspeople who participated in the economic development workshops expressed concern for the future of Ledyard. They recognized that the residential tax burden is heavier than most neighboring communities and that it is likely to increase, given the lack of a substantial economic base. They also noted that the Town's school system, while a source of community pride, is under funded. They also observed that the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation is a significant factor. It offers employment to the region but contributes little directly to the Town's tax base. Most desired better relations with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. The townspeople have pride in their Town, have strong positive feelings for the community and place a great amount of emphases on quality of life. They want the rural character of the community to be protected and they want to see current patterns of development respected. In summary, the citizens want an economic strategy that fits within the special context, that is Ledyard. It must emphasize a careful balance between growth and community character. Finally, the residents want quality development that represents the Town's character and that contributes to Ledyard's "sense of place". Economic development must improve each citizen's quality of life!