FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Old Lyme formally joins Ledge Light Health District

Ledge Light Health District is pleased to announce that Town of Old Lyme and Ledge Light Health District have put in place an Operational Agreement that formalizes their partnership, which becomes effective November 1st, 2016. This partnership follows months of negations, informational sessions and a Town Meeting, where residents voted to join the District.

"Ledge Light Health District is very happy to have Old Lyme on board – our staff has been working closely with the Old Lyme administration to help assure the smoothest transition possible. Although we know there will be hurdles to overcome, we are confident that we will be able to provide comprehensive public health services to the Town at a significant cost savings" said Director of Health Stephen Mansfield.

"The Town of Old Lyme is very pleased to become a member of Ledge Light Health District. As the 'premier' Health District in the state, we feel very lucky to have had this option, and we are already seeing benefits," said First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder. "Our Health Dept. employee will now be a Ledge Light HD employee, but will spend a great deal of her time in our Town Hall, continuing to provide excellent customer service, and answer questions that our resident and business customers may have. Thanks to Director of Health Stephen Mansfield, and his staff, we believe the transition will go very smoothly and everyone will see the benefits of membership."

The policies, procedures and regulations of Ledge Light Health District are currently in place, which replaced those previously in existence in the Town. District Regulations and a current copy of the new fee schedule are available at www.llhd.org.

Ledge Light Health District – LLHD – serves as the local health department for East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Groton, Connecticut. As a health district, formed under <u>Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241</u>, LLHD is a special unit of government, allowing member municipalities to provide comprehensive public health services to residents in a more efficient manner by consolidating the services within one organization.

The Director of Health and staff of LLHD work to promote health and wellness among the 120,000 residents we serve. By enforcing the Connecticut Public Health Code, conducting health education programs, monitoring disease outbreaks and nurturing our environment, LLHD is focused on *promoting healthy communities*.

LLHD's mission statement – to prevent disease, illness and injury; to protect and nurture our environment; and to promote improved health and prosperity for all residents – describes in more detail our slogan of "promoting healthy communities."