

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 2019 - 7:30pm
Veterans Park Elementary School Auditorium

8 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

APPROVED Minutes

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, B. Hebert, B. Manners, M. Kozlark, S. Zemo

Town Meeting at 7:30pm

Town vote on determining whether the APA (Aquifer Protection Agency) should be under the jurisdiction of the Planning & Zoning Commission or to the soon to be elected Inland & Wetland Board.

* Board of Selectmen Meeting to immediately follow the Town Meeting*

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Appointment to the Commission for Accessibility - Catherine McNulty
3. Vendor Permit Renewal - Arantes Coffee Truck
4. Refund Requests - Tax Collector's Office
5. Selectman's Report
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 21, 2019 Meeting

Town Meeting - Town vote on determining whether the APA (Aquifer Protection Agency) should be under the jurisdiction of the Planning and Zoning Commission or to the soon to be elected Inland & Wetland Board.

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting to order at 8:29pm.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Appointment to the Commission for Accessibility - Catherine McNulty, Ph.D.

Don Ciota, the Chairman of the Commission for Accessibility and Catherine McNulty were present. Mrs. McNulty is a nine year Ridgefield resident, with a Master's Degree and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Penn State, is a

certified school psychologist, school administrator and a licensed psychologist in New York. She has focused her work on students with disabilities since 2005, and is currently the Director of Special Services with the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. Ms. McNulty has attended the last three Commission for Accessibility Meetings as a public participant and welcomes the opportunity to further demonstrate her commitment to individuals with disabilities as a member of the Commission for Accessibility.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Catherine McNulty to the Commission for Accessibility. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Vendor Permit Renewal- Arantes Coffee Truck

Jacques Arantes came in to renew his vendor permit for Arantes Coffee Truck, his truck serves breakfast and lunch at construction sites around town. Mr. Arantes's truck has been in Ridgefield for about 7 years now.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the Vendor Permit Renewal for Arantes Coffee Truck. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Refund Requests - Tax Collector's Office

The total for the Tax Collector's Refunds as submitted was \$9,164.01. This is for cars that were traded in and/or sold (the majority are from leasing companies). The taxpayers get a refund for the balance left on the full year of taxes they overpaid.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the Tax Collector's Refunds in the amount of \$9,164.01. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Selectman's Report

Fox Hill Dam

R. Marconi had a meeting with DEEP in regards to the Fox Hill Dam. There will be another meeting this fall. They are unsure as to which direction they will choose, either remove the dam, or reconstruct to current codes. Cost estimates are \$3 million to remove the dam, and \$6 million to reconstruct.

9/11 Memorial

R. Marconi asked the BOS if they received the information regarding the 9/11 Memorial, and hopes that the BOS will all be able to attend.

Ashbee Lane

R. Marconi received a letter from a concerned resident of Ashbee Lane regarding the danger of pulling out onto Route 7 from Ashbee Lane. Residents are petitioning the DOT to “shave down” Route 7 for better visibility. R. Marconi explained that it wouldn’t be that simple and has asked Chief Kreitz and Commissioner Kain to address this issue as the LTA (Local Traffic Authority).

R. Marconi isn’t optimistic in regards to DOT helping, but would like to get Jake Muller, Director of Facilities to work on soliciting cost for survey work.

Depot Road Bridge (part of the Branchville Improvements)

R. Marconi had a meeting on September 3rd with Charlie Fisher, Jake Muller, several engineers, consultants as well as the DOT. After an inspection, it was found that the Depot Road Bridge is in extremely bad condition. The Town will likely receive notice from the State in regards to closing the bridge to vehicular traffic. No formal notice has been given to the Town asking for the closure at this time. Charlie Fisher, acting as Town Engineer has been asked to review and submit his opinion.

The BOS discussed many different options in regards to repairing this bridge, or removing the bridge as well as how to accommodate the larger trucks that can not currently make the turn when accessing via Portland Avenue. S. Zemo suggested the possibility of eliminating some of the parking spaces from the Branchville Train Station to use as a turning lane for access. The BOS is very sensitive as to how having this bridge indisposed could potentially impact the local businesses.

Reimbursement from FEMA

This reimbursement is from the damage the Town incurred due to the May 2018 storm. There was extensive damage to the Mamasasco Lake area up through Tackora Trail and North Salem Road resulting in approximately \$127,000 worth of damage, 25% of which is the Town’s obligation. R. Marconi is asking that these funds be allocated to the extensive ash trees problem on public property.

The Town is expecting \$95,000 from FEMA and R. Marconi would like to have the support of the BOS in regards to using a portion of these funds to hire a clerk to work in Mr. Pinchbeck’s office 12 hours a week (4 hours per day, 3 days a week) to assist Mr. Pinchbeck in responding to emails and phone calls. The balance of these funds would be used towards the removal of the ash trees effected by the ash borer infestation.

R. Marconi explained that Mr. Aarons and the EMD (Emergency Management Department) are going to work with the Tree Committee to determine the number and location of all the ash trees on public roads.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2019 Meeting

Discussion of the Meeting Minutes took place amongst the BOS.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to approve the August 21, 2019 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes as modified. Motion carried 4-0-1 (B. Manners abstained).

**M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:06pm.
Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollie M. Rapp