

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 - 7:30pm
Town Hall, (Large Conference Room)
400 Main 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, M. Kozlark, S. Connelly

Absent: B. Manners

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Energy Task Force Presentation - Dr. Ben Oko
3. Economic Community and Development Commission - Branding Discussion
4. Appointment
 - a. Glori Norwitt - Economic Community and Development Commission
5. Reappointments for Board of Selectmen Appointed Committees and Commissions
6. Ridgefield Recycling Coordinator Discussion
7. Depot Road Bridge - Department of Transportation Application
8. Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2019
9. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Energy Task Force Presentation - Dr. Ben Oko

Dr. Oko was present along with Energy Task Force Members M. Kozlark, Geoffrey Morris, Jake Muller, Dave Ulmer & Joe Moritz to give the BOS an update of where they are as well as where they are headed. Dr. Oko began by introducing the current membership of the task force which include the BOS member M. Kozlark, Jake Muller (TOR, Purchasing Agent), Joe Moritz (Board of Education), Dwayne Escola (Solar Energy Co.), Elizabeth DiSalvo

(Architect & Clean Energy Expert), Dave Ulmer (Board of Finance), Geoffrey Morris (ECDC), and Cameron Cole (ECDC).

Dr. Oko also discussed the aspirations the task force has for the Town going forward.

- Make all of the schools and municipal buildings LED lighted.
- Increase the amount of electrical charging stations for electric vehicles. Additional charging stations as planned for the new town parking lot.
- Start replacing town vehicles with electric when possible, as well as exploring electric school buses.
- Increase solar on all Town buildings, and install solar in parking lots.
- Explore heat pump technology, and start transferring heating & cooling systems to this technology when replacement is needed.
- Improve recycling with a goal of zero waste.

The task force is planning to prepare a comprehensive plan for the Town which will explain the above suggestions. Some dollar figures will be included as well. The task force will be encouraging the Town to commit to a new, more aggressive goal. They believe that since Ridgefield is a leader in so many ways, it should lead in sustainability and energy conservation as well. B. Hebert recommended a cost/benefit analysis on these ideas.

There was discussion regarding the cost of purchasing electric vehicles. The Town doesn't purchase vehicles for municipal use. All purchases are for police vehicles which then get processed through to various departments in Town when no longer needed by the Police. There was also discussion about technology in regards to electric trucks. White Plains School District uses First Student the same company used by Ridgefield Public Schools and has five electric buses. The use of electric school buses would be a Board of Ed decision.

3. Economic Community and Development Commission - Branding Discussion

John Devine, Chairman of the ECDC began a PowerPoint presentation showing the ECDC website. Their website has a video running for December to attract people to Ridgefield for the holidays. They also place ads on Facebook to drive traffic to the homepage of the ECDC. The amount of people that viewed the ad, as well as how many had chosen to interact with the ad has been monitored. The ECDC is very interested in purchasing the URL ridgefieldct.com to drive more traffic to the ECDC website and Ridgefield Attractions, the cost to purchase is \$4,000.

The ECDC is confident that they don't need to create a brand for Ridgefield since we own the brand of being a destination for arts and culture.

There was discussion on a recent bill introduced by John Frey, to establish Cultural Districts in Towns meeting the State criteria. In order to comply the ECDC needs to setup a 7 member sub-committee. If selected, Ridgefield will be able to apply for grants. Discussion about Ridgefield representation on State Tourism Board took place. The ECDC would like to have Amanda Duff as representative. The BOS had previously discussed appointing B. Manners. R. Marconi will check with B. Manners to resolve.

S. Connelly moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to establish a sub-committee of the ECDC for the purpose of obtaining Cultural District Designation. Once approval is received, the BOS may revisit and refine the designation of this sub-committee. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Appointment

a. Glori Norwitt - Economic Community and Development Commission

Glori Norwitt interviewed for a position on the Economic Community and Development Commission. Ms. Norwitt moved to Ridgefield in 2004. She served as a Board member of the Veteran's Park PTA, was a Crisis Hotline Volunteer, Board Member, and Board Chairman for the Women's Center of Greater Danbury. She serves on Advisory Council for Ms. President US and Board member and Chair of the Governance Committee of CT Against Gun Violence.

She graduated from the University of Michigan and received a JD from the University of Southern California.

Ms. Norwitt looks forward to becoming more involved in the cultural district bill. She had the opportunity to attend the meeting at the Cultural Alliance with Mr. Morris in regards to the application.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to appoint Glori Norwitt to the Economic Community and Development Commission. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Reappointments for Board of Selectmen Appointed Committees and Commissions

List of Reappointments:

Affordable Housing Committee *(9 members; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Kent D. Rohrer

Kevin C. Brown

David Goldenberg

Cable TV Advisory Council

AnneMarie F. Surf are Boehme

Melinda Violante

Deer Management Implementation Committee *(5-member committee; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Paul J. Payne, Jr.

Stephen J. Scala

Richard Szentkuti

Stefano Zandri

Golf Committee *(four-year term - follows BOS)*

Patrick K. Egan
Al Fazi
Marlene Gerhard
Deborah A. Murphy
Michael Reilly
Ed Tyrrell

Graveyard Restoration Committee *(9-member committee; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Sara S. Champion
Grace Clewell - Sec
Susan Law
Jeffrey S. Lundberg
Thomas Michael McManus
Nancy Selander - VC
Joel H. Third
Sarah Slavin

Insurance & Risk Mgmt Committee *(7-member committee; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Joseph I. Loonan
John J. Queirolo
Paul H. Hallahan
Richard Anthony Salvato
Karn Bosshart

Ridgefield Arts Council *(11-member council; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Hilary L. Aronow
Amy Casey
Joshua Fischer
Paul R. Gervais
Judith Lynn Lynch
Mark C. Meachem
Jennifer D. Rose-DiLaura
Christopher J. Sorgie

Advisory Board:

Noelle Carr, Suzanne Enser-Ryan, Linda Haines, Isaac Hirt-Manheimer, Emelie Howard, Stan Madaloni, Bill Markus, Daniela Sikora, Sabina Slavin, Allison Stockel, Meg Collins Stoop

Ridgefield Prevention Council *(9 adult members; 2 students; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Karen L. Facini
LouAnn Daprato
Carolyn Marie Knupp

Darrin Q. McGuire
Melanie R. McGuire
Emily G. Pambianchi
Erica Ippoliti
Timothy Hasting
Brian Nash

Students
Tarah Sleight

Architectural Advisory Committee *(5 full, 5 alternate members; four-year term - follows BOS)*

Suzanne Benton
Joseph H. Heyman
John Kinnear, Jr.*
Glenn D. Lounsbury

Alternate Members:

John R. Clements
Jan M. Goldfluss
Linda K. Lavelle

Constables *(two-year term) - Constables must be re-sworn in each time they are reappointed*

Richard N. Aarons
Peter F. Killie
William T. Peatt, III
Robert W. Spielman

The BOS discussed the possibility of reducing the number of Constables appointed, they feel that four is adequate to cover the needs of the Town so the board will pursue reduction in the next Charter Revision.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Connelly seconded the motion to approve the reappointments for the Board of Selectmen appointed Commissions and Committees. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Ridgefield Recycling Coordinator Discussion

The Town position for a Recycling Coordinator is currently vacant. It is important to fill this position. Tiffany Carlson worked for the HRRA (Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority) for several years. She is a Ridgefield resident and has voiced an interest in serving in that capacity. There is no budget for this position. Funding would have to be found in order to fill this part-time position.

Ms. Carlson explained to the BOS that currently there isn't anyone available to answer questions in regards to recycling, no single point of contact. The position would manage the information about recycling on the Town's website.

R. Marconi mentioned that Ridgefield is required by the State of Connecticut to have an appointed Recycling Coordinator. The Board wanted to get more information about the budget dollars and where these dollars would come from. R. Marconi will bring information back before a decision can be made.

7. Depot Road Bridge - Department of Transportation Application

R. Marconi reported that the Depot Road Bridge remains closed. Engineers are going to use GPR (ground penetrating radar), to see if the 6-8" cap of concrete poured years ago has rebar in it. This will determine if the bridge can support passenger cars.

The cost of the new bridge will be between \$1.6 & \$1.8 million. The Depot Road Bridge repair will have to be done prior to the start of the Portland Avenue Bridge Project. The Depot Road Bridge is eligible for the FLBP (Federal Local Bridge Program) as a State Administered Design Project. The next steps are for the Town to submit the formal application request letter. The BOS discussed the specifics of the application which require the Town to pay 20% of the construction only costs. The BOS wanted to understand the exact dollar commitment the Town is making by signing the application. The BOS authorized the signing of the application. This will now get passed go to the Board of Finance. Contingent on BOF approval a Public Hearing as well and a Town Meeting on January 8, 2020 to meet the application deadline has been set.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion for R. Marconi on behalf of the BOS to sign the Preliminary Application for the Local Bridge Program in Regards to the Depot Road Bridge. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to hold a Public Hearing as well as a Town Meeting on January 8, 2020 for the purpose of allocating approximately \$360,000 to the Depot Road Bridge Construction, contingent on approval from the Board of Finance. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2019

The BOS discussed the minutes from the November 20th meeting and made a few modifications to the Selectman's Report.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve the November 20, 2019 Minutes from the Board of Selectmen Meeting as modified. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Selectman's Report

EPPI Drill

R. Marconi attended an EPPI Drill, which is a State Emergency Management Drill on December 4th in Watertown. The simulation was a cyber-attack, combined with an attack on the LNG (Liquid Natural Gas Inventory). Bottom line is that we have to think of the Town as an island and be able to respond independently.

The power company proposed an interesting answer to power outages, and R. Marconi thought it was weak in terms of response. The companies came up with a program called shedding, where they would supply intermittent power.

Fox Hill Dam

Kristin Walker, with the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) that oversees dams for the Department of Agriculture, wants a meeting or a phone conference to make a decision on the Fox Hill Dam. The proposals are to remove the dam for \$3 million plus or rebuild the dam at \$6 million plus of which the State would have to pay a third. NRCS is going to have a meeting on the 18th. The BOS discussed the pros and cons of the difference to options in regards to the dam. The BOS felt much more clarification needed to be made on this project with assurances from the State on consequences of any proposed modifications.

Tiger Hollow

Repairs and upkeep are going to be needed on the turf fields at Tiger Hollow, SRMS field. The repair of the field at Scott Ridge Middle School is going to be pushed off to the 2022 budget cycle.

The Tiger Hollow Track, is coming up on 19 years old. It's been repaired several times, and now it's time for a full replacement. There are two options, option A is to replace what we have now. Full replacement would be approximately \$550,000. Option B is you do a post-tension concrete base, so literally the concrete floats. This would cost roughly \$750,000.

The Tiger Hollow Turf Field 1 is ready for replacement at about \$400,000. Facilities are beginning to test the hardness of the surface of the fields in regards to concussions. The cushion would be an additional \$130,000 which would be paid for by Tiger Hollow Board, they would do fundraising for that. There is also a third component which is Tiger Hollow 2, it is planned for 2024/2025 and would be another \$400,000 plus cushions for replacement.

The Tiger Hollow Board through fundraising originally paid for the field and track. The agreement was to establish sinking fund for the turf field replacement. A major donor said that he would not contribute a significant amount of the money necessary to build a facility unless the Town committed to establish a sinking fund. The BOS discussed whose responsibility it is to maintain/replace the track and fields at Tiger Hollow. M. Kozlark has researched this in past meeting minutes, and found a number of documents from the inception of Tiger Hollow that confirmed the project was for the field and track. R. Marconi believes that since the Town was gifted both the track and the field, and that the Town didn't spend any money on these assets of the community that the Town has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain. The BOS understands that this will be part of the upcoming budget discussion.

POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development)

The POCD will be discussed at a Public Hearing on January 7, 2020. R. Marconi was going to make sure the board has the most current copy so that the board can agree what their recommendations to the POCD may be.

Branchville Cemetery

The Town is moving forward with acquiring the Branchville cemetery now that the attorney has made contact with a relative in Texas.

Lookout Drive

There are two roads in town that are not connected but have the same name. A possible name change should be considered.

Misc.

M. Rettger was voted in as the new member of the BOF, to fill S. Connelly's resignation. M. Rettger had to resign from the Pension Commission and position of Assistant Town Treasurer as a result. There is now a vacant seat on the Pension Commission. Molly McGeehin, the Town Treasurer is looking at candidates to fill the vacancy of Asst. Treasurer.

Article 11 - Code of Conduct, This still needs to be reviewed and made part a Town ordinance.

R. Marconi has been working with Dan O' Brien, Chairman of the Historic District Commission on historic properties. The owners of 37 Catoonah Street and 75 Olmsted Lane had requested Historic Resident Designations for their properties. Paperwork has been caught up and the deeds have been filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. O'Brien is also working with R. Marconi on the demolition delay permit.

Governor Street Parking Lot

The proposal for the new Town parking lot on Governor Street was presented to the Inland/Wetlands Board. After reviewing it, the Town may have to reduce the number of spots from 56 to 35. The Inland/Wetlands Board is requiring additional research on animal life, plant life and number and size of trees needed to be removed. The BOS discussed the cost implications the additional studies would have on the project.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:53pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollie M. Rapp