

**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Public Hearing & Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 3, 2018; 7:30 pm  
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)  
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

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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, B. Manners, S. Zemo

**Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting will be held on January 3, 2018, 7:30 PM, Ridgefield Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut to consider and act on the following changes in Ridgefield Code under Chapter 24: Citations. ***Bold italics*** represents addition to existing language; brackets and strikethrough {~~strikethrough~~} indicates deletion of text.

**Chapter 24:** Citations

**Article III: Wetlands Violations**

**§ 24-16 Authority; service of citation.**

***Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 22a-42g and 7-152c, the Inland Wetlands Agent is authorized to issue citations for violations of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Ridgefield to the extent and in the manner provided by this article and by statute. Any such citation may be served either by hand delivery or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person named in the citation. If the person named in the citation which has been sent by certified mail refuses to accept such mail, the citation may be sent by regular United States mail.***

**§ 24-17 Violations for which citation may be issued.**

***A citation may be issued for any violation of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Ridgefield.***

**§ 24-18 Amount of fine.**

***The fine for each citation shall be issued according to monetary amounts defined by CGS 22a-42g, payable to the Town of Ridgefield.***

**§ 24-19 Time period for payment of uncontested fine.**

***A person named in the citation shall be allowed a period of 30 days from the date of his or her receipt of the citation to make an uncontested payment of the fine specified in the citation. If the citation has been sent by regular mail pursuant to the provisions of § 24-16 above, the day of receipt of the citation shall be deemed to be three business days after the day of mailing of the citation.***

**§ 24-20 Hearing to contest citation.**

***Any person issued a citation shall be entitled to a hearing to contest the citation. In order to receive a hearing, the person named in the citation must deliver or mail a written request for a hearing to the Inland Wetlands Agent within 30 days of his or her receipt of the citation. The request must be received by the Inland Wetlands Agent within the***

***thirty-day period. The procedures for hearing, disposition and enforcement shall be as is set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes, § 7-152c, hearing procedure for citations, as the same may be amended from time to time.***

***§ 24-21 Selection of citation hearing officers.***

***The First Selectman shall appoint one or more citation hearing officers to conduct the hearings necessary pursuant to this article. The Inland Wetlands Agent, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Building Official or any employee or member of the Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission or Inland Wetlands Board may not be appointed as a hearing officer pursuant to this section.***

***§ 24-22 Remedies not exclusive.***

***The provisions of this chapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies available to the Town under the Connecticut General Statutes or other applicable section of the Town Code.***

R. Marconi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:32 pm.

R. Marconi asked the Board of Selectmen for any questions; there were no questions from the BOS.

R. Marconi asked whether the public had any questions; there were no questions from the public.

Richard Baldelli, the Director of Planning and Zoning came forward and stated that the Wetlands Citation Ordinance has been extremely effective for the town of Ridgefield. Approximately 80% written warning have been issued with no financial penalty. The warnings have been sufficient to bring the particular issue to compliance. Planning and Zoning considers Wetland Citation Ordinance an effective tool for enforcing the town's rules.

R. Marconi called Beth Peyser – Wetlands Citation Ordinance Agent

Beth Peyser stated that the BOS suggestion referring to the CT Statute Section 24-18 for The Amount of Fine was taken into consideration and it was changed. The intended fine will be \$150 for the average.

R. Marconi asked B. Peyser that since the statue is open, will there be any changes 20 years from now?

Richard Baldelli from the public answered the question, stating that the fine can be appealed.

No more questions from the Board of Selectmen

R. Marconi closed the public hearing at 7:37 pm.

## **Agenda**

1. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interviews: Darrin, Melanie McGuire
2. Board of Ethics (alternate position) Interview: James Carroll, Jan Rifkinson
3. Reappointments-Constable: Ted Peatt
4. Economic and Community Development Commission
5. C-PACE
6. HRRA & Transfer Station Lease
7. Selectman's Report

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:44 pm by R. Marconi.

**M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to add to the evening's agenda #6a – to discuss moving the scheduled meeting from January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Motion carried 5-0.**

**1. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interviews: Darrin, Melanie McGuire**

Darrin and Melanie McGuire came forward to introduce themselves to the Board. R. Marconi read the request from Melanie and Darrin McGuire in which they explained why the couple would like to be appointed to the Ridgefield Prevention Council. Melanie shared her passion on working with families on prevention. With a masters in Psychology and licensed as a massage therapist, she has been working as a parent educator for 9 years, teaching parents how to use massage to bond with their child. She has been working with immigrants, and volunteered her work through organizations in Vietnam and Philippines. B. Hebert asked if the work she has done was part of her profession or the community outreach. Melanie stated that it was both. The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the opioid problem. M. Kozlark asked Melanie if she has participated in meetings with Ridgefield Prevention Council. Melanie stated that she has been involved in the meetings. The McGuire couple must see the Town Clerk during normal business hours to be sworn in.

**B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Darrin and Melanie McGuire to Ridgefield Prevention Council. Motion Passed 5-0**

**2. Board of Ethics (alternate position) Interview: James Carroll, Jan Rifkinson.**

R. Marconi informed the Board that Jan Rifkinson has withdrawn his application for the Board of Ethics Alternate Position and read the withdrawal letter. The other candidate, James Carroll was called to introduce himself to the Board. R. Marconi read the email sent by James Carroll in which he expressed his interest to set up an interview with the Board of Selectmen. James Carroll has 40 years of experience working as an investment advisor and has lived in Ridgefield for 24 years. M. Kozlark asked James Carroll if he is informed about this position and if there are any other boards he would be interested to be part of? James Carroll stated that he has a general idea of what the position is about, and he wants to familiarize himself with this position first. James Carroll must see the Town Clerk during normal business hours to be sworn in.

**S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to appoint James Carroll to the Board of Ethics (alternate position). Motion passed 5-0.**

**3. Reappointments-Constable: Ted Peatt**

Ted Peatt was not present. R. Marconi read the letter written by Ted Peatt where he expressed his desire to be reappointed to the position of constable. The Board of Selectmen decided an interview is not necessary.

**B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Ted Peatt to the position of Constable. Motion Passed 5-0.**

**4. Economic and Community Development Commission**

The ECDC Chairman Arnold Light and the Vice Chairman and Secretary John Devine came forward to discuss the First Floor Retail Proposal. Arnold Light stated that the ECDC is seeking at least a commitment of \$12,000 for the balance of the fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. R. Marconi asked A. Light and J. Devine to clarify if the money would be given to the landlord as its written in the proposal. A. Light clarifies that the money would go to the merchants. R. Marconi asked if there would be an application process? J. Devine explained that the application would be reviewed and approved by the ECDC. The board of Selectmen, A. Light and J. Devine discussed the First Floor Retail Proposal. A. Light stated that Ridgefield is a business-friendly town and the First Floor Retail will attract more retail into the town of Ridgefield. B. Manners stated that the FFRP does not help the businesses downtown and if more businesses come to Ridgefield, the parking issue and the traffic will increase, which will result in people not wanting to come to Ridgefield to shop.

B. Hebert supports the FFRP idea and stated that retailers are changing and adopting a different way of marketing and that the BOS should support First Floor Retail Proposal and grant them the \$12,000. This idea is not supported by the BOS who amend the original price to \$6,000.

**S. Zemo moved and R. Marconi seconded a motion to approve \$6,000 from contingency only if it is matched by the central business district landlords which will become part of a pool that will be available for marketing purposes for the Economic Development Commission to use as an incentive for new three-year lease negotiations in the central business district. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **5. C-PACE**

Elizabeth DiSalvo was asked to come forward to discuss C-PACE. In one of the past meeting BOS indicated the need to share C-PACE information with the Tax Collector. R. Marconi read an email sent by the tax collector Jane Berendsen-Hill, stating that the Tax Collector has no objection to the town participating in the program.

S. Zemo stated he is asking for clarification as the BOS does not want to appear as they are endorsing any company. Elizabeth DiSalvo stated that the program doesn't approve the company, it approved the ability to get the loan.

B. Hebert asked if the state budget would affect the program? R. Marconi explained that it wasn't 100% cut, half of the money was reinstated to support the program.

BOS discusses the loan for C-PACE. B. Hebert doesn't feel comfortable approving the program and would like to discuss it further with the town counsel. R. Marconi suggested to move C-PACE to the next meeting's agenda to be approved after all questions are answered.

A member of the public representing Ridgefield Academy spoke to support C-PACE and stated that this program would help the academy reduce energy cost.

## **6. HRRA & Transfer Station Lease**

R. Marconi gave brief overview of the HRRA & Transfer Station Lease agreements that the Town of Ridgefield, with the approval of the Board, would be signing.

For the last 20 years, MSW (mass solid waste) from Ridgefield has gone to Bridgeport. It will continue to go there as priority in the Town's HRRRA agreement with Winter Brothers.

The general HRRRA agreement states that the Town of Ridgefield will be part of the HRRRA organization for both MSW and recyclables.

The Transfer Station Lease Agreement would give a license to HRRRA to make an agreement with Winter Brothers for the facility.

This agreement will come back before the BOS after HRRRA approves.

R. Marconi suggested the BOS read and review the agreements and have a full discussion at the next meeting.

#### **6a. January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to cancel the meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and schedule two special meetings on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, with an executive session meeting at 5:30 pm and a 6:30 pm meeting to follow. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **7. Selectman's Report**

- Resignation Letter from Alison Greeley from Ridgefield Arts Council (Thank you Alison for all the dedicated work with the council).
- Geoffrey Morris, a request for TownVibe – Ridgefield Magazine to take over the organization of the Ridgefield International Film Festival—this will be discussed further at the 1/31/18 BOS meeting.
- Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting Agenda for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Correspondence from Bill Davidson distributed to the BOS

**B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:00 pm. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nita Asani