



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED
April 12, 2023 at 7:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Barbara Manners, Bob Hebert, Maureen Kozlark

Absent: Sean Connelly

1. Public Comment

Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, commented on the Fair Share Bill, Inclusionary Zoning and the FOIA suit he is involved with against P&Z and the ECDC.

2. Town Vender Permit renewal – Chez Lenard

Mike Principi has been running Chez Lenard Hot Dog Stand since 2007. Mr. Principi talked about his work life balance, his amazing staff and his record year in 2022 for private parties.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the vender renewal application for Chez Lenard Hot Dog Stand. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

3. Potential Initiative – Ukraine Sister City

Ridgefield has the opportunity to recognize Druzhkivka, Ukraine as a sister city. Ridgefield Responds already facilitates donations to the Ukraine to help those in need. Recognizing a sister city would allow the organization to focus their efforts to one designated location which could help generate awareness and support. There are no financial obligations from the town.

Barbara Manners moved to adopt the city of Druzhkivka, Ukraine as a sister city to Ridgefield, CT. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

4. Ridgefield Aquatic Club Appropriation Request

The Ridgefield Aquatic Club (RAC) is raising money for updates and repairs at the Barlow Mountain Pool. RAC, a 501c3 is asking for the town to match their contribution. Jason Muncy, Treasurer of RAC, talked about the organization, their expenses and their contract with Parks & Rec.

The list of improvements include:

- a. Public Restroom – separate from the swim team’s locker room to provide privacy and safety to the swimmers.
- b. Updating the bleachers to bring them up to code
- c. Fixing issues in the locker room such as broken showers
- d. Minor paint and cosmetic improvements

There will be more discussion and possibly an open house at the pool so that residents can see what is being asked.

5. P&Z update – Rob Hendrick

Several bills regarding housing and planning development are coming to the floor for a vote by the state legislature. Two of the bills could negatively impact Ridgefield. The Fair Share Bill would require an affordable housing assessment in each community by the state, who would then provide a detailed quota that needs to be filled. This bill would take away Ridgefield’s authority to make decisions regarding affordable housing. Rob Hendrick, Planning & Zoning Commission Chair, commented that there is an informal understanding that this bill will not get passed.

The other is the Transit Oriented Development bill (Work Live Ride) which is an incentive for transit hub development within communities. The bill provides funding to the municipalities that qualify. It is unclear if state funding would be rescinded if those communities do not develop. There was a discussion about different strategies for developing the Branchville area which would qualify as a Transit Hub.

The Board of Selectmen and Planning & Zoning Commission will schedule a meeting with Ridgefield’s State Representatives to make them aware of the town’s concerns.

Other topics discussed included Solar Farms and updated regulations regarding energy, digital sign regulations, and the outdoor dining statute.

The Board asked about Inclusionary Zoning, however because the Public Hearing has been closed, the Planning & Zoning Commission has been

advised by legal not to discuss the topic outside of their scheduled meetings.

6. Resolution for CT Bond Commission (Playgrounds)

The resolution for ADA compliant bond installations for playgrounds at various schools needs approval from the Board of Selectmen and a signature from the Town Clerk before it is sent to the state.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the resolution for ADA compliant improvements to the playgrounds at Barlow and Ridgebury Elementary Schools that will be sent to the State of Connecticut after Town Clerk, Wendy Lionetti signs the document. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

7. Approval of Budget Ballot Questions from Bond Counsel

The Board of Selectmen approved the resolutions, which are available at the offices of the First Selectman and Town Clerk.

Maureen Kozlark moved to waive the reading of the call of the Town Meeting. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Barbara Manners moved to approve the calling of the Town Meeting for 7:30pm at the Ridgefield Playhouse on May 1, 2023 and the Referendum for 6am-8pm at Yanity Gym on May 9, 2023. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Maureen Kozlark moved to waive the reading of the questions for the ballot as approved in resolutions. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Bob Hebert moved to waive reading of bond language as presented. Copies will be available at the offices of the Town Clerk and First Selectman. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the March 15, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes as amended. Bob Hebert second the motion. Barbara Manners abstained. Motion carries 3-0.1

9. Selectman's Report

The monthly revenue meeting was today. Revenues are extremely strong, building is on forecast and conveyance is running similar to 2019.

The Charter Revision Commission has been doing a great job. They hold weekly meetings and research every request that they receive.

Rudy Marconi has been appointed to serve on the advisory council for the Opiate Settlement fund.

Ridgefield has received several grants from the state that are going toward the following projects: Branchville walking bridge & sidewalks, Ligi's Way boardwalk, and sidewalks on New Street & Pound Street. Other upcoming projects include: fixing the sidewalks on Grove Street & Prospect Street. The Main Street project is wrapping up and the Bailey Avenue Project has started.

The town is working on getting money from FEMA to address the flooding of houses on Wooster Street.

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn the April 12, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting at 10:15pm. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.