



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED
May 24, 2023 at 6:30pm

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 that the Affordable Housing Committee would like to use grant money for a different project than what it was originally awarded for. Rudy Marconi commented that the Board of Selectmen voted to allow the AHC to ask the State if the funds can be redirected. It is up to the State to decide.

Christine More, Scott Ridge Road, commented that she is disappointed in the State Representatives' denial to reschedule a meeting with the public. She expected more push back from the Board of Selectmen.

2. Local Recycling Billboard Contest Winners

The Ridgefield HRRA Billboard Contest Winners were recognized with an award by Mr. Marconi and Recycling Coordinator Tiffany Carlson.

3. Reappointment to Golf Committee: Michael Ippoliti (move to full member)

Mr. Ippoliti talked about his time on the Golf Committee as an alternate. There were discussions about female representation, the concession stand, membership stats, clubhouse improvements and the ongoing water issues.

Barbara Manners moved to approve Michael Ippoliti to move from an alternate member to a full member on the Golf Committee for a four-year term. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

4. Commission on Aging updates

Joe Ternullo, Andrea Beebe, Clemencia Saleeby, and Peter Bancel gave

the Board an update on the Commission on Aging. Intern Kavia who has been working with the Commission was also present.

The Directory of Senior Services has been updated. A donor has generously offered to fund printing the new version.

The Commission requested for Kavia to extend her internship as a paid position for another six weeks. Joe Turnello spoke on Kavia's behalf emphasizing the importance of her work and seeing the project through. Peter Bancel talked about the survey project that the Commission is working on. The Commission would like to hire a company for professional advice. Andrea Beebe talked about ways to ask for donations. There was a discussion about how the survey would be delivered (email, mailings, door to door) and the next steps.

The potential job for Kavia and the survey will be discussed further after more information is provided. The Board would like to see a professional estimate before the next meeting on June 7th.

5. Ridgefield Aquatic Center

Treasurer Jason Muncy and President Jennifer Giles appeared before the Board to discuss a financial partnership with the Town for the purpose of fixing up the Barlow Mountain Pool. Mr. Muncy provided details on the amount of rent that RAQ pays to the Town, the current contract and what is covered. He also gave an overview of the issues that need to be fixed at the pool.

RAQ is committed to paying for Phase 1 of the improvements and is asking that the Town match RAQ's contribution for Phase 2, which is \$375K. There was a discussion about the lifespan of the pool and the length of the lease.

Barbara Manners moved to send a letter to the Board of Finance asking for approval of \$375K to be used toward improvements at the Barlow Mountain Pool. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

6. Capital Overage for Capital Close-out Funding Requests

Jake Muller, Director of Facilities, discussed the capital close-out funding requests for his department. There are two new line items which include partial funding for new bathrooms at the Ridgefield Playhouse and upgrades for the Town Hall large conference room. A Town Meeting is required for approval of these items.

Maureen Kozlark moved to set a town meeting for June 7, 2023 to vote on the two items in the Capital Close Out funding request that were discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting as presented by Jacob Muller, Director

of Facilities. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. Muller gave an update on several current and upcoming projects.

- The Boardwalk and Force Main projects on Ligi's Way are moving along. The contractor has asked that the road be closed at certain times. They can either close the road completely or keep one lane open moving traffic in one direction. Mr. Muller has reached out to the Police Department regarding the request and will also wait to see how the project progresses before making a decision.
- The Branchville project should be completed by mid-October. Signal controls and light fixtures are delayed due to supply issues. There was a discussion allowing merchants to park at the Branchville Train Station which is only about 20% full most of the time.
- The Solar Canopy project at the High School is expected to begin just after the fire works on July 2nd and will continue until Labor Day. Areas of the lot will be closed at times, but the lot will remain open.
- The Highway Department solar panel roof project will be awarded in the next week or so.

There was a discussion about hiring a company to do an assessment of the safety issues in Ridgefield so that the Town can create a safety plan for applying for grants. There are several areas in Ridgefield that need safety upgrades.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the May 10, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes as amended. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

8. Selectman's Report

The Memorial Day Parade is on Monday. Intern Ryan Williams wrote a speech that he will read.

There are a total of seven interns working at Town Hall on various projects.

There is a CDL driver shortage which will cause some difficulties for the HART bus. Ridgefield's Town Loop bus will continue.

The Regency Center bought all the Urstadt Biddle properties which include several buildings on Main Street.

The ECDC's Broadband survey has been completed. There will be a meeting to discuss the results. The COG has agreed to do an RFP for the engineering for the company that will own the tower. The project needs to be shovel ready in order to apply for the grant.

The agreement with Homeland for a tower at the Golf Course is almost done.

The Board of Selectmen will need to set meeting dates to review the Charter revisions.

The State passed a statute requiring all municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 to establish a Fair Rent Commission. There was a discussion about the purpose of the commission and how it would affect Ridgefield. None of the Board members are in favor of establishing a Fair Rent Commission, however it is state mandated. They will continue to discuss it.

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:01pm. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.