



**Town of Ridgefield  
Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes  
UNAPPROVED  
May 4, 2022 at 7.30pm**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Present:** Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Bob Hebert, Barbara Manners (zoom) Maureen Kozlark (zoom)

**The Town Meeting was called to order at 7.30pm and adjourned at 7.38pm.**

**1. Public Comment**

R. Marconi read a letter from Lisa & Sean McEvoy, 150 High Ridge Rd, regarding the proposed Affordable Housing Plan. In the letter the McEvoy's express their concerns about the Affordable Housing Plan that has been submitted and asked that the Board delay in sending the plan to the State. In addition, the McEvoy's asked that Mr. Goldenberg be removed as the Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee. Several Ridgefield residents attended the meeting to express their concerns and objections toward the proposed Affordable Housing Plan. The residents that stood in opposition included: Andrea Beebe of 378 Main Street, Christine More of 63 Scotts Ridge Road, Jean Marie McLean of 71 Ridgecrest Drive, Sandra Lussi of 110 Florida Hill Rd.

Nicolas Fischetti, gave a statement sharing his dissatisfaction regarding the investigation into the carriage house that was rented to his two disabled children several years ago.

Clemencia Saleeby, 66 Grove Street, expressed her objection to a 24 foot sign that Atria Assisted Living plans to install on their property. R. Marconi commented that this issue falls under Planning and Zoning and that C. Saleeby should submit a written statement directly to the P&Z Director, Alice Dew.

Andrea Beebe asked what the policy is regarding use of personal emails for Board, Committee and Commission members. R. Marconi commented that for cyber security and FOIA all members are now required to have a town email address.

**2. Appointments & Reappointments:**

**a. Barbara Dobbin – Reappoint to Parks & Rec Commission**

R. Marconi read a letter from Phil Kearns, Chair of the Parks & Rec Commission, in support of B. Dobbin's reappointment.

B. Dobbin talked about the new strategic plan for the Rec Center, the increase in program attendance and revenue recovery since COVID, and the struggle with finding staff to work as camp counselors for the summer.

**B. Hebert moved to reappoint Barbara Dobbin for a three-year term on the Parks & Rec Commission. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**

**b. Geoffrey Morris – Reappoint to ECDC**

Glori Norwitt, Chair of the ECDC, commented that Geoffrey Morris is a key member of the Economic and Community Development Commission.

G. Morris provided answers to several questions from the Board which included what the ongoing objectives of the Commission are, the relationship between the ECDC and The Chamber of Commerce, an update on the streamlining process for new businesses and plans to attract more people to work in town. There was a discussion on transportation and the part it plays in the struggle for businesses to find staffing.

G. Norwitt commented on her request to increase the number of members on the Commission. There will need to be a change to the ordinance and a modification in the Charter.

CeCe Berger who is the High School Girls Track Coach, commented that many of the High School kids who are looking for jobs say it's hard to find out which businesses are hiring and suggested advertising through the Guidance Counselors at the school.

**B. Hebert moved to reappoint Geoffrey Morris for a one-year term on the ECDC. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**

**3. Vendor Permit Renewal: The COOP**

The owner could not attend tonight so the permit renewal will be postponed.

**4. Lease Agreement: Cornerstone Gardens**

Conservation Chair Jim Coyle and Cornerstone Gardens owner CeCe Berger appeared before the Board to discuss transferring the License Agreement between the Town and Cornerstone Gardens into a full five-year Lease Agreement.

J. Coyle gave an overview of the terms of the current License Agreement. C. Berger provided a list of Cornerstone's accomplishments and talked about a few of their biggest achievements.

The Board discussed the lease and made some adjustments which will be presented and voted on at a Public Hearing and Town Meeting.

**M. Kozlark moved to schedule a Public Hearing on May 18, 2022 at 7.30pm followed by a Town Meeting on June 1, 2022 at 7.30pm for the purpose of discussing and approving the amendments to the Lease between the Town of Ridgefield and Cornerstone Gardens. B Manners second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**

**5. Approval of BOS Meeting Minutes**

**B. Hebert moved to approve the April 7, 2022 BOS Special Meeting Minutes as amended. M. Kozlark second the motion. S. Connelly abstained. Motion carries 4-0 -1.**

**S. Connelly moved to approve the March 2, 2022 BOS Meeting Minutes as amended. M. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**

**S. Connelly moved to approve the April 13, 2022 BOS Meeting Minutes as amended. M. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**

**6. Selectman's Report**

The Board needs to familiarize themselves with the Affordable Housing Plan and be ready to discuss it with the Affordable Housing Committee at one of the upcoming Board of Selectman meetings.

R. Marconi read the letter from Jean Marie McLean who made a public comment earlier about her opposition to the proposed Affordable Housing Plan.

M. Kozlark updated the Board on the route 7 sewer project. The updates are posted on both the Town website main page and the WPCA page.

R. Marconi reviewed a report that shows the estimated five-year savings from the solar panels that have been installed in some of the schools. There was a discussion about the need for a heat pump study, energy audits at the schools, and the upgrades that are already occurring.

There will be an MFA rollout for the Town. Currently Town employees use an authenticator for email. Moving forward, in addition to the authenticator employees will also be required to use yubic key that will be programed for each desktop and laptop individually. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, all members of the Boards, Committees and Commissions are now required to have ridgefieldct.org email address with which they will conduct all town business.

RCK, the oldest Preschool in Ridgefield, is being asked to move out of the Lounsbury

House after 60 years. R. Marconi offered to help the school find another location and commented that he thinks the Town does not have a legal say in the matter but will review the lease again to double check. All of the Board members will be giving a copy of the lease to review and will send a letter to the Lounsbury house with their thoughts and comments.

Due to decay and wood pecker damage, the poles on Florida Hill Rd needed replacing. According to Eversource, the new poles were to be similar to the existing ones, however they are substantially larger.

Eversource has offered plantings to the residents in the area, but are requiring the homeowners to maintain them once they are planted. The homeowners do not want to be responsible for the upkeep or the replacement if the plantings happen to die. Eversource is working toward a solution.

The person at the DOT in charge of the Main Street Project has changed and needs to be brought up to speed with the plan that was agreed upon.

There is a petition for the roads in the lake view area to be considered scenic and taken over by the Town.

The Historical Society is working on modifying the ordinance on demolition delay to implement stricter consequences for local permit violations.

Blaze Mazur created a video of the Battle of Ridgefield Reenactment weekend, which can be found on the Town website. The Historical Society has asked that anyone with pictures to send them in. There is an idea to create a book with the photos to sell as a fundraiser.

**B. Hebert moved to adjourn the BOS meeting at 10.08pm. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.**