

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
REVISED/APPROVED

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

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Recommendation from Fire Commission to Appoint Jerry Myers as Fire Chief
3. Deer Hunt Presentation
4. Parking Authority Interview- Ellen Burns
5. Historic District Commission Interview- Kathleen M. Daughters (Alternate Position)
6. Pension Commission Reappointment- Arthur Harris Aaronson
7. Virginia Roebuck/Lease Renewal (Loosen Up Massage Therapy)
8. Ridgebury Cemetery
9. Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation
10. Request to Appoint Second Subregistrar for Removal, Transit, and Burial Permit
11. Selectman's Report
12. Meeting minutes Approval: 5/17/17 Special, 5/10/17 Regular, 5/10/17 Special Joint

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 pm by R. Marconi.

Virginia Roebuck/Lease Renewal (Loosen Up Massage Therapy)

Motion made to move agenda item number 7 to item number 1. M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The tenant is seeking a one year lease renewal at the Venus Building (Per R. Marconi- has been an excellent tenant since 2003) There is currently a ninety-day notice for a recapture in place. The lease has not changed; this is strictly an amendment. **B. Hebert motions and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to approve a one-year renewal of the Loosen Up Massage Therapy lease. Motion passed 5-0.**

1a. Public Comment

Ellen Burns, 297 Great Hill Road- Posed questions regarding the impending closure of a portion of Route 7 over the weekend. Her concern was that traffic will be diverted and likely cause residual congestion on Main Street. Chief Roche has implemented a plan to have four officers scheduled around the clock on the Route 7 project. Should Main Street show increased volume; one or two officers will be relocated from Route 7 to Main Street. Variable message signs will also be shut off so as not to provide conflicting information when rerouting traffic. Chief Roche assured the meeting attendees that plans are in place and that they have dealt with similar situations in the past. The Town of Ridgefield will also use social media as a vehicle for making residents aware of the closures/detours.

2. Recommendation from Fire Commission to appoint Jerry Myers as Fire Chief

The Fire Commission held a meeting on May 24th at which point they interviewed Jerry Myers at length. The Board of Selectmen feels comfortable and confident with his appointment. **M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to appoint Jerry Myers (Acting Chief) to position of Fire Chief. Motion passed 5-0.**

(Because Mr. Kilpatrick had not yet arrived, the Board proceeded with the agenda.)

4. Parking Authority Interview

Ellen Burns

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Ellen Burns for a Member position on the Parking Authority Commission. Ellen Burns spoke to the fact that she sees the parking issues not only from a resident standpoint, but also a merchant. She has previously served on the Schlumberger Committee in addition to many other acts of volunteerism. The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed with Ellen Burns potential strategies that could be implemented to combat the current parking issues (i.e. concert parking at Ballard Green Park, an expansion of parking at CVS) **S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to appoint Ellen Burns as a Member of the Parking Authority. Motion passed 5-0.**

4. Historic District Commission Interview

Kathleen M. Daughters (Alternate Position)

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Kathleen (Kam) Daughters in consideration for appointment as an Alternate Member on the Historic District Commission. A question was raised about minority representation and a potential conflict should more than two thirds of the Commission have the same political affiliation. Our Charter does not state that alternates serving in the position create an unfair balance; therefore there is no issue with Kam serving as an alternate on the Commission. R. Marconi asks that the Commission be conscious of this to prevent any type of vote being challenged in the future. R. Marconi also shared a letter submitted by Kam Daughters regarding her desire to be appointed as an alternate. A second letter was submitted by Dan O'Brien, in strong support of Kam Daughters' candidacy. **S. Zemo moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Kam Daughters as an Alternate on the Historic District Commission. Motion passed 5-0.** Kam Daughters must see the Town Clerk during normal business hours to be sworn in.

3. Deer Hunt

(Presentation by Howard Fitzpatrick, Chief John Roche, and Stefano Zandri)

Howard Kilpatrick gave a short presentation which outlined statistical data gathered over the last 27 years with regards to the deer population. The presentation was also provided to the Conservation Commission for review and consideration. The presentation discussed that with a controlled and maintained deer population, we will also see a reduction in Lyme disease cases as well as animal/vehicle accidents. Chief Roche stated that the report given to the Board of Selectmen in 2015 recommended 20 deer per square mile. Howard Kilpatrick will be performing another aerial population study in the winter of 2017/2018 and will e-mail his findings to Chief Roche and the Board of Selectmen.

6. Pension Commission Reappointment

Arthur Harris Aaronson

Arthur Harris Aaronson was not present at the meeting; however, the Board of Selectmen moved forward with the motion to appoint. **S. Zemo moved and R. Hebert seconded the motion to reappoint Arthur Aaronson for another three-year term to the Pension Commission. B. Manners chose to abstain, as she has more questions for Arthur Aaronson. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

8. Ridgebury Cemetery

Committee members were in attendance with the exception of Bob Reynolds. Josette Williams provided a history on the cemetery and background of the Board Members. The Committee is seeking approval for the Town of Ridgefield to assume control of the cemetery in an effort to protect and maintain its legacy. Bob Reynolds and his family have cared for the property for three generations. For the last twenty years, Tom Draper (not in attendance) has maintained the landscape of the property, while Tom Keene (not in attendance) is responsible for opening the graves. Hannah Barber has been acting Sexton of the property and intends to continue in this role. R. Marconi stated that a Town Meeting and Public Hearing is required prior to the acquisition of the property. Josette Williams went on to say that the property will in no way be a liability to the town, as the entity's financial health is more than stable. Additionally, there are 100+ plots available for sale. R. Marconi also asked that it is determined if and how much a Sexton will be paid.

9. Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

R. Marconi read gun violence statistics further demonstrating a need for increased awareness. June 21st has been named, "National Ask Day". A day residents are encouraged to ask if guns in the home are locked away and secured properly. In memory of a young girl who lost her life to gun violence, her friends have decided to wear orange in her memory, a color typically worn by hunters as a safety measure. Nina Johnsrud, 7 Christopher Road-approached the Board of Selectmen and urged them to continue their efforts toward increasing gun violence awareness. B. Hebert opposed the current proclamation, as he felt a more generalized violence awareness campaign may be more beneficial to the community. Josette Williams suggested that the Board of Selectmen ask the Ridgefield Police Department to post gun safety measures. R. Marconi will have the proclamation reprinted without B. Herbert's signature. **B. Manners moved, S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation. Motion passed 4-1 with R. Hebert opposing.**

10. Request to Appoint Second Subregistrar for Removal, Transit, and Burial Permit

Donald E. Wakeman (Bouton Funeral Home) has requested that he be appointed a Subregistrar to issue removal, transit and burial permits and cremation permits for any death that occurs in Ridgefield during the hours in which the Town Clerks office is closed. According to State Statute 7-65 (b), two suitable persons may be appointed. Daniel Jowdy of Kane's Funeral Home has already been appointed, leaving one vacancy. **R. Marconi motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to appoint Donald E. Wakeman as Second Subregistrar to the Town Clerk. Motion passed 5-0.**

Selectman's Report

- Parks and Rec
 - In a letter from Phil Kearns, Chairman P&R Commission he is proposing the following:
 - The Building Committee to be comprised of five individuals; Paul Roche, Phil Kearns, David Thaxter, Carl Lecher, and Paul Payne. R. Marconi would like to speak with the Committee. More information is needed relating to the scope of the work and the variance in cost from the original budget (\$1.2M)
 - They also propose that the architectural firm of Doyle/Coffin be engaged for this project.
 - The Building Committee will seek to secure a Construction Manager. They are in the process of obtaining proposals.
 - The Building Committee has also tentatively outlined the timing for project phasing
 - All contracts will be bid according to Ridgefield Town policy.
- RSO has moved from the Venus Building
- Fundamentals of Economic Development- June 13, 2017 at 6:30 pm
- Rotary Citizen of the Year (Allison Stockel)- June 14, 2017 at Silver Spring Country Club
- Race for Solar Program Kickoff and Workshop (Ridgefield Library- Program Room)- June 14, 2017 at 7 pm
- Retirement of Tizzy Mantione from Ridgefield Prevention Council
- Little Red Schoolhouse has been painted. There will be an Open House on July 30, 2017
- Flag Day on the front steps of Town Hall- June 14, 2017 at 7 pm

Approval of Minutes

5/24/17- Special **B. Hebert motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to approve as written the 5/24/17 BOS special meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

5/10/17- Regular **B. Hebert motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve as written the 5/10/17 BOS meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

5/10/17- Special Joint **S. Zemo motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve as written the 5/10/17 BOS special joint meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.**

Motion to Adjourn

B. Hebert motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:58 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Freda