

**Town of Ridgefield  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, August 23, 2017  
Meeting Minutes – Approved  
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)  
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut**

In attendance: R. Marconi, B. Hebert, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, S. Zemo

**Agenda**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:29 pm by R. Marconi.

**\*\*Addition\*\* Proposed Schlumberger Parcel Sale to Charter Home Groups**

**B. Manners motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to decline the proposed sale of a one-acre parcel on the Schlumberger property. B. Hebert opposed the motion. Motion carried 4-1.**

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**2. Police Union Contract Vote**

The Police Union has voted and approved the tentative agreement prior to the public meeting. The agreement remains the same except for the union name. Details of the agreement include extending the agreement for two years, a one percent increase in healthcare premium share, a two percent salary increase, and the pension cannot become an item of discussion or negotiation.

**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the tentative agreement. Motion carried 5-0.**

**3. Temporary Health Care Structure Opt-out Discussion: Rebecca Mucchetti, Richard Baldelli**

Rebecca Mucchetti and Richard Baldelli spoke with the Board regarding the temporary health care structure following several land use acts that have recently received attention. Rebecca and Richard state that their concerns come from a land use perspective, and are in favor of choosing to opt-out. In order to opt-out Planning & Zoning must first have a meeting and bring it to the commission for a vote following a public hearing; thereafter the Board of Selectmen must vote (no hearing necessary). This law goes into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>; however, there is no set timeframe to opt-out. The Planning & Zoning Commission will follow-up with the Board of Selectmen.

No motioned posed.

**4. Youth Commission**

• **Interview:**

○ *Emily Furfaro*

R. Marconi read the request from Emily in which she explained why she would like to be appointed to the Youth Commission. M. Kozlark asked about the particular initiatives that Emily was interested in. Emily expressed great interest and involvement with regards to the Kindness Mural. S. Zemo asked about what Emily can do at the high school to enhance the dialogue. Emily recommended having more discussions and possibly advertising to engage more RHS students about the commission and their mission. Emily will need to be sworn in by the town clerk during normal business hours.

**S. Zemo motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Emily Furfaro to the Youth Commission. Motion carried 5-0.**

• **Reappointments:**

○ *Mary Furfaro*

Mary Anne has worked on the commission for over a year now. She states that the first year was a learning curve in which she learned the operations of the commission. Mary Anne references the importance of the youth in our town and their energy. Mary Anne also went on to discuss the Kindness Mural, which demonstrates the community coming together as one, as different groups are responsible for different parts of the mural which will eventually come together as one singular work of art.

**B. Manners motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Mary Furfaro to the Youth Commission for a second term. Motion carried 5-0.**

○ *Alttara Scheer (not in attendance)*

No motioned posed.

○ *James Yavenditti*

James has served on the commission for a few years, currently serving as the Secretary. His educational career as Director at St. Luke's has helped him both professionally and personally. James states that the Commission often competes for time when compared to sports and other extracurricular activities. The Board also discussed with James potentially working with not only the high school youth but also at the middle school level.

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to reappoint James Yavenditti for an additional term on the Youth Commission. Motion carried 5-0.**

○ *Shane Bowler*

Shane describes his role on the Commission as an advocate for a majority of teens. Shane briefly discussed the partnership between The Barn and the Boys & Girls Club. He goes on to say that both groups are mingling and The Barn culture still very much exists. Shane also recommended designating a liaison from each school to act as an extension of the Commission. Shane describes bullying as almost non-existent in Ridgefield as more often than not youth are called out by their peers for unsatisfactory behavior. This will be Shane's last year serving on the Commission as he will be heading off to college next year.

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to reappoint Shane for an additional term on the Youth Commission. Motion carried 5-0.**

○ *Isabella Scheer*

Isabella Scheer has served on the commission for a year now. Isabella states that she enjoys attending the monthly meetings and hopes to make residents more aware of the commission and their initiatives. B. Hebert asks what are the three main issues at present, Isabella states that among the most pressing are; substance abuse, creating a kinder community, and stress among her peers. When asked about the initiatives that the commission is working on, Isabella discussed the kindness mural. After being asked about her accomplishments, Isabella stated that she's grown more comfortable with speaking and providing insight at the monthly meetings. Isabella states that there are between 3-12 attendees at each meeting. She will need to be sworn in by the town clerk during normal business hours. **B. Hebert motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Isabella Scheer for an additional term on the Youth Commission. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **5. Board of Ethics Interview: Michelle E. Pallai**

Michelle was recommended by Barbara Safran (who has since left the Commission, secondary to relocating). She has lived in Ridgefield for 27 years and has three children, all of which have gone through the Ridgefield Public School System. Michelle has a strong background in decision making and is confident that if appointed she will be a strong addition to the Commission.

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Michelle E. Pallai to the Board of Ethics Commission. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **5. Vendor Permit Renewals:**

• *Arantes Coffee & Lunch Truck*

**B. Manners motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to renew for one year Arantes Coffee & Lunch Truck vendor permit. Motion carried 5-0.**

• *Gigi's Family Ice Cream*

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to renew for one year Gigi's Family Ice Cream vendor permit. Motion carried 5-0.**

• *Only the Hungry*

**B. Manners motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to renew for one year the Only the Hungry vendor permit. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7a. \*\*Deletion\*\* Agreement of Use & Occupancy- Yanity Preschool to Almost Home Daycare**

R. Marconi asks the board to delete this item from the agenda, as the applicant has withdrawn their request.

**B. Manners motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7b. \*\*Addition\*\* Tax Abatement for 41 Lakeside Drive (Land Donation)**

R. Marconi asks the Board to add this item to the agenda in place of item #7 (above)

**B. Manners motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to replace Item #7 with the tax abatement request for the 41 Lakeside Drive land donation. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7c. Tax Abatement for 41 Lakeside Drive (Land Donation)**

R. Marconi discusses with the Commission the donation of open space located at 41 Lakeside Drive. The property is 0.25 acres that abuts. This property has previously been discussed and a public hearing was held in the past. The town will not finalize the filing until the approval of a tax abatement (\$1,727.50) is complete. Once complete, the interest and lien fees will be waived. 0.25 of an acre.

**S. Zemo motioned and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to abate \$1,727.50 in taxes from the donated property. Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Approval of Tax Refunds**

**B. Manners moved and M Kozlark seconded the motion to approve tax refunds. Motion carried 5-0.**

**9. Request for Ridgefield Marketing Funds Revenue Account**

This fund was created by private business owners to collect \$25,000+ in an effort to attract customers/shoppers to Ridgefield as well as new retailers. To date the fund has raised \$15,000 with a total of six donors. The Economic and Community Development Commission will also be meeting to discuss the fund. Donations to the fund can be classified as a write-off, but not a charitable contribution. At present, there is no Tax ID in place.

**B. Hebert motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to permit a Marketing Funds Revenue Account. Motion carried 5-0.**

**10. Selectman's Report**

1. Governor Malloy has issued a proposed budget which includes substantial cuts (most cuts will be in the social services sector). R. Marconi handed out copies of the budget for review. Under this budget there will be approximately \$1.8M in surplus. Governor Malloy has requested that each municipality submit a projection of the fiscal year ending fund balance for 2018. This will likely result in towns being penalized for sound financial management.
2. The town received numerous thank you notes for contributions to Ann's Place, Founder's Hall, etc.
3. Ridgefield Action Committee (RACE) would like to become a formal Commission tasked with promoting resource conservation. RACE would still have to come to the Board for approval. R. Marconi will send the Board their proposal for further consideration.
4. The Ridgefield Art Walk will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm and run for approximately one month.
5. The 9/11 Ceremony will be held on Route 35.
6. There is a detour scheduled on Route 7 for over the weekend. R. Marconi states that this will be the last one for a while.
7. Earth Place and the Women's Center thanked the town for contributions.
8. The construction on Route 35 will be done November/December with both lanes functional; however, the roadway will not be fully operational until April 2018.

**11. Meeting Minutes Approval**

**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 3/7/17 budget meeting minutes with modifications. Motion carried 5-0**

**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 6/21/17 special meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.**

**B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 7/12/17 special meeting minutes as written. M. Kozlark abstains. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

**Motion to Adjourn**

**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon Freda