

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOS MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 19, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Attendance: R. Marconi, R. Hebert (came in at 6:45 p.m.), M. Kozlark, B. Manners, S. Zemo

Board of Selectmen Meeting – Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Battle of Ridgefield Reenactment Presentation
3. Sprint Police Tower Lease Agreement Renewal
4. Approval of Tax Refunds
5. Selectman's Report
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 10/06/16 Special

R. Marconi called the BOS Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.
2. Battle of Ridgefield Reenactment Presentation

Three members of the Ridgefield Masonic Ledge Jerusalem 49 came forward to present their proposed plans for the Battle of Ridgefield Reenactment on April 29, 2017 – Lou Demchuk, Ben Morehead and Walter Wieland. Hilary Micalizzi, representing Keeler Tavern, also came forward. They presented R. Marconi a tee-shirt depicting the reenactment. These shirts will be sold to raise funds for this event. They hope to secure BOS approval of their proposed plans. 2017 is the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield. Also to be honored is Masonic General David Wooster who was fatally wounded during the battle. Participating in the reenactment will be the 5th Connecticut Regiment and two or three other groups. In the evening, there will be a black-tie dinner dance with swing band music at Lounsbury House.

Topics being discussed are public sanitation requirements, dirt covering Main Street as was done in the reenactment in 1977, insurance requirements, CT Dept. of Transportation petition to close Route 35/Main Street from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from North Salem Rd intersection to the water fountain at Rte. 35, use of Ballard Park as staging area for encampment and Keeler Tavern for encampment, and security/policing requirements.

Those participating in the encampment will stay over from Saturday evening into Sunday. There will be a Memorial Service honoring General Wooster scheduled for Sunday.

R. Marconi stated that we will need to look at the traffic situation – the possible road closing and resulting detour. He suggests the spreading of dirt only where the battle took place – a very limited area.

R. Hebert inquired how many individuals will be involved in the reenactment? The answer is 60 to 75 participants. A cannonball group is interested in coming. Keeler Tavern wants to be a partner in the day's festivities.

M. Kozlark expressed the need to talk to the Chamber of Commerce and other groups in town so that there are not conflicting scheduling of events. The Historical Society also needs to get involved.

S. Zemo stated there is also a representative from the EDC present this evening. The proposed event is a "big deal" and a business generator for the community. The Reenactment Committee is seeking donations from friends and neighbors and welcomes help from as many as possible. They have not yet spoken to the BOE to get their assistance as well. R. Marconi stated the Reenactment Committee needs to go to the Police Commission. Saturday is a big day for merchants and their partnership is needed. A special insurance policy will be needed for this type of event. They will need to obtain an insurance rider to cover this event. The Committee came to this evening's meeting to ask for Selectmen participation. R. Marconi stated the Committee needs to lay out the logistics – where are they going to need people, what about parking and who is going to direct parking that day. There is a lot to organize.

B. Manner inquired about security measures for the reenactment. Will they be shooting blanks? Who is going to handle the logistics? They need to also speak with Parks & Rec. The press needs to be informed and how does the committee get the support of various neighborhoods? What streets will need to be closed?

R. Marconi asked when the Committee will be coming back to the BOS with their follow-up. There are lots of communication issues. They need someone special working on this. S. Zemo stated this is a "wonderful, daunting task". R. Marconi stated the flyers should not go up until after this November's election.

John Devine, representing the EDC, suggested the Committee talk to the Downtown Association. Closing Main Street can be a problem as we do not want to deny people access to the stores. The EDC can assist with the marketing. How can this day also be an economic positive for the merchants?

R. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to support the Ridgefield Masonic Lodge Jerusalem 49 in their planning for the Reenactment of the Battle of Ridgefield on April 29, 2017, and the black tie dinner dance gala at Lounsbury House the same evening. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Sprint Police Tower Lease Agreement Renewal

The current lease expires in 2017 and Sprint is requesting a renewal. A copy of the proposed lease has been sent to D. Grogins, Town Counsel, for his review.

The cost of the tower upgrade project is about \$112,000, split four ways. We do not want to not have a lease going into the future and thus we are anxious to get this project done. The final part of the puzzle is to be approved by AT&T. They are doing their own structural analysis. This is the last remaining piece of this project. S. Zemo inquired as to what does this lease allow the town. The lease will be available at the end of next week. R. Marconi inquired whether we have the right to move the tower. He does not know. We do not need a zoning approval. S. Zemo stated we need to think in terms of utilization of the site. It is not a lengthy lease – only one page.

M. Kozlark asked if there are any other concerns about getting a spot on the tower. This should bring in revenue. We have not heard from anyone else. R. Marconi responded we now have Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile plus the Town of Ridgefield. This four-way split includes the town. This will be an item on the agenda when we get the new lease.

S. Zemo stated the value of the tower is an asset to the Town. We need to recognize what the tower is worth. Our share of the expense can come out of the Tower Fund. We do not have to take the cost out of our General Fund.

4. Approval of Tax Refunds

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$7,686.51, as requested by Tax Collector, Jane Berendsen-Hill in her memo dated October 13, 2016. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Selectman's Report –

- A meeting was held regarding the Portland Avenue bridge replacement. This is an old historic masonry bridge located near the train station. R. Marconi visited the site with a consultant from the State of CT. There is a self-storage warehouse on the road preventing trucks from making a delivery. These trucks have to go over the tracks on the North end. The thought is to take Portland Avenue and move it further south where Dunkin' Donuts is located. Metro North will need to be involved with this also.

100% of the design fee may be paid by the State of CT. 80% may be Federal money and 20% Municipal funding – cost estimated at \$2.5 to \$3 million. If Federal money is not available, then we can seek other grants. This is forecasted for the 2019 budget year. The initial meeting on this project was held last week.

M. Kozlark commented on the traffic problem that will result during construction. R. Marconi stated it will be necessary to redesign significantly for this location. Traffic backs up at this location now. It is difficult to make a left turn into the train station. The thought is to put in a by-pass lane further south. This will involve a redo of the Rte. 102 intersection.

R. Marconi suggested that we get the cost numbers and some info to put in a new bridge. If our portion is 20%, we can put that into our budget and can seek grant money. We would fund and get reimbursed. We would need to get a grant for our payment.

M. Kozlark stated it would be necessary for Metro North to pay for the railroad crossing with funding from the Rail DOT. Everyone will need to work together on this project. She expressed concern about the left turn lane into the train station.

- Robin Matthew has received the State award – Distinguished CT Recreation Association Park & Recreation Service Award. Congratulations!
- Annual Halloween Walk – next Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Traffic plans are being worked out.
- Annual Halloween Party – Monday, October 31st – Lounsbury House
- Business Supports the Arts Breakfast – 7:30 tomorrow morning, October 20.

- Absentee ballots for the November 8 election are available in the Town Clerk's Office prepared 1200 absentee ballots for this election. The office hours for the Town Clerk's Office are as follows:

Normal business hours – Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

They will also be open Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 10/06/16 Special

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the October 6, 2016, Public Hearing & Special Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Hearing

R. Marconi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the call for the Public Hearing – *“Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on October 19, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to consider changes in Ridgefield Code under Chapter 274, Article II. Pending and Soliciting.”*

R. Marconi stated Joanne Meder, Director of Planning, reviewed the proposed document. All her comments are in red. Her editorials are left out. S. Zemo stated that what J. Meder suggested are her ideas. R. Marconi proposed that Ms. Meder comes to the BOS Meeting and explain the changes she is suggesting.

Joan Zawacki, Silver Spring Rd. – is a food vendor with a permit. She stated food services are exempt for a private party. She also stated the language should be changed for a multi-day event. How is the vendor paid for their services? The wording needs to be specific about everything.

This question was raised – Any food delivery services are exempt. Do we agree with this? Do we want on-line delivery service?

One individual asked if the public is going to vote. The answer is yes, at a Town Meeting. Once we know we are finished with Public Hearings, a Town Meeting will be scheduled.

A question was raised – if someone wants to deliver food, do they have to have approval to do so? Could an individual technically do that?

John Katz, Old Ridgebury Rd. suggested an addition on Page 2, #1 – insert the wording, “residents of the Town”.

Another comment was about the location of garbage disposals. The wording should be changed to also include “recycling”.

Another suggestion was for the elimination of B3 and hours of operation. Put in the words, “food delivery service”.

S. Zemo stated the content is so confusing. He suggests that the public also have access to a “clean copy”. It will then be easier to read and make sense of the final version being considered.

The public is confused about popular food trucks and the business they bring to the town. How does their presence interfere with brick and mortar food establishments? We do not want food trucks to be parked in front of a restaurant. R. Marconi stated there are a lot of communities looking at this issue. Where do we draw the line? Food trucks are popular. We don't want people in food trucks selling door-to-door. There are a lot of items to consider in the 274-4 ordinance. The purpose is that we want a balanced ordinance.

Laura Stabell, Lake Rd., stated when someone wants to go into business, they need a permit. They need a document from the Health Department, for instance, if they want to "make a sauce". We do not want cold calls – door-to-door calls. They need to be selling their product to a store. What about background checks? Is it up to the stores that displays the product for sale to perform a background check? R. Marconi stated we do want to know about people who are driving on our streets and selling their products. We want to be sure that these are people who do not have a bad record. M. Kozlark stated one does not have control when renting a business. We do not want to change our background check ruling. R. Marconi stated we as members of the Board of Selectmen want residents to know we take seriously the health and safety of our town.

S. Zemo stated we have specific zones in town where fresh food can be sold.

John Devine, Governor St. – stated we rely on all brick and mortar establishments to do background checks on all their employees.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:35 p.m. and continue the Public Hearing on November 2, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall/Large Conference Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT. Motion passed 5-0. In the meantime, a "clean copy" of the proposed wording of the ordinance will be made available.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Johnson