



Town of Ridgefield  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Unapproved  
November 29, 2023 at 6:30pm  
Please note – these minutes are not verbatim

Present: Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Maureen Kozlark, Sean Connelly, Barbara Manners, Chris Murray

**1. Public Comments**

Carson Fincham, 125 Florida Rd proposed questions to the Board about statutes regarding the petition, amendments, the public hearing to come about the noise ordinance petition, and a town meeting

John Tartaglia 638 Danbury Rd expressed concerns about the Noise Ordinance, the verification of petition signatures, and whether the petition would be accepted by the Board. Mr. Tartaglia also inquired about the Flagpole Policy. Mr. Tartaglia advocated for stopping the act of flying the flags of other countries on Town property. He suggested that only the US and CT flags be flown throughout Ridgefield for the purpose of “simplicity and peace.”

Saasha Hogan of 63 Benson Rd, Elizabeth Long of 30 Benson Rd, and Mike Loewengart of 20 Dlhhy Court, all expressed thanks to the Board for collaborating with and listening to residents and ensuring that all residents were more informed about the Cell Tower updates for the Golf Course.

Nick Tampio of 14 Glen Rd was in agreeance with John Tartaglia about only flying US and CT flags throughout Ridgefield’s town-owned properties and expressed his thoughts about Ridgefield not getting involved in Foreign Policies.

**2. Appointments**

a. Akshay Pertab – Youth Commission (Youth Member/Advisor)

Akshay Pertab came before the Board to express his interest in being a member of the Youth Commission. In an email to the First Selectman, Mr. Pertab expressed his strong belief in the Youth Commission's missions, values, and goals and how it aligns with his own. He shared that he is an active participant in the Youth Commission and has participated in two Youth Commission meetings thus far and how he spoke on behalf of the Youth Commission at the Pride Crosswalk Dedication recently. Mr. Pertab expressed his desire to make Ridgefield a more inclusive, welcoming community for the youth and for more solidarity to be shown to marginalized groups. He believes that officially becoming a member of the Youth Commission will allow him to make his goals a reality. Mr. Pertab expressed his desire to have a day in Ridgefield where people come together to learn about different cultures and to celebrate each other's differences.

- b. Vijay Pertab – Youth Commission (Youth Member/Advisor)  
Vijay Pertab, a Ridgefield High School High Honor Roll student, came before the board to express his interest in being a member of the Youth Commission. Mr. Pertab submitted a colorful resume to the Board in which he shared his new and past activities and groups/clubs he is or was a contributing member to such as the Danbury Grassroots, the Robotics Club, Science Olympiad, and the Anyone Can Code Club. Mr. Pertab expressed how much he enjoyed teaching and supporting young children while volunteering with Danbury Grassroots and would like to do the same for the youth in Ridgefield. Barbara Manners asked Mr. Pertab what his priorities are and would be as a member of the Youth Commission. He expressed that a greater focus should be placed on technology as a result of mental health crises amongst the youth.

Chris Murray expressed his support for both Akshay and Vijay and would like give both Akshay and Vijay the task of energizing and getting more of the youth involved.

Maureen Kozlark agreed with Chris Murray about getting more of the youth involved and inquired about activities Akshay and Vijay are currently involved in and what their impressions of Youth Commission meetings were. Vijay expressed his fondness for the environment and atmosphere of the meetings and the conversations about mental health amongst the youth and the importance of it. Akshay stated how he enjoys how the Youth Commission is a well-organized committee that is truly dedicated to focusing on supporting the youth throughout Ridgefield.

Sean Connelly expressed thanks to both Akshay and Vijay for their interest in the Youth Commission and for coming before the Board to discuss their ideas.

Denise expressed how both Akshay and Vijay have contributed greatly to the Youth Commission and how well-adjusted they are regarding taking on leadership roles and will do so at the Ridgefield Holiday Stroll.

Vijay and Akshay expressed strong desires to keep the Pride Flag and advocated for the LGBTQIA+ community and how it is imperative they have a space in Ridgefield where they feel like they belong.

***Sean Connelly motioned to approve appointing Akshay Pertab as a Youth member for the Youth Commission and Vijay Pertab as a Youth Advisor for the Youth Commission, Chris Murray seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.***

### **3. ODEENS – Ridgefield Golf Club Concessions Renewal**

The ODEENS Concession Renewal has been postponed until December 15, 2023. No one was able to come before the Board. Maureen Kozlark suggested a rent increase. Barbara Manners inquired about the season in which ODEENS is open. Chris Murray inquired about figuring out how much the rent would increase, Rudy Marconi suggested looking at the Cost of Living and checking in with the Board of Finance for their recommendations.

### **4. Flagpole Policy**

Rudy Marconi spoke about flag protocol and etiquette regarding flying another country's flag about the CT flag. There is no official policy or ordinance about flying flags in Ridgefield. Sean Connelly suggested adopting a Flag policy. Chris Murray inquired about a third flagpole. Maureen Kozlark agreed that a Flag policy is needed in Ridgefield. The board agreed to look into creating a policy and keeping this on the agenda for the next Board of Selectpersons meeting.

### **5. Noise Ordinance – Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting**

Rudy Marconi proposed accepting the Noise Ordinance petition, setting a public hearing on December 13<sup>th</sup> and a Special Town Meeting on January 3, 2024. Chris Murray inquired about what the petition is asking. The petition is looking to amend the ordinance to allow limited use of the gas-powered leaf blowers in the fall and spring seasons. The petition would also allow gas-powered leaf blowers in the event of an emergency such as a Hurricane. It would be effective starting January 25, 2025. Rudy Marconi advocated for those who work in landscaping and their concerns about the costs (of fines), time frames, and alternative options to gas-

powered leaf blowers. Chris Murray expressed concerns about legal issues.

***Rudy Marconi motioned to set a Public Hearing for December 13, 2023 and a Special Town Meeting for January 3, 2024. Chris Murray was opposed to the motion. The motion carried 4-1.***

**6. State of CT Grant Allocation Request – Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting**

The Board of Finance approved of Jake Muller's request to allocate funds for the reimbursable grants. Rudy Marconi suggested a public hearing and a town meeting in order to officially approve of the Grant requests.

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve setting the Grant Allocation Request Public Hearing for December 13, 2023 and the Grant Allocation Request Special Town Meeting for January 3, 2024. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.***

**7. 2024 Board of Selectperson Meeting Calender**

Maureen Kozlark suggested doing Fire Commission and Board of Selectpersons meeting on the same night and starting the meetings earlier.

***Barbara Manners motioned to accept the 2024 Board of Selectpersons Meeting schedule as modified, Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.***

**8. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the October 11, 2023 and October 25, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes will be redone and postponed for approval until the next Board of Selectman meeting on December 13, 2023.

***Barbara Manners motioned to accept the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes as modified. Chris Murray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-2 (Sean Connelly and Maureen Kozlark obtained)***

**9. Selectman's Report**

The Board discussed rent throughout Ridgefield, a request for radar enforcement, and the upcoming Public Hearings.

***Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting, Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.***