



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes**  
**UNAPPROVED**

**February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Present:** Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Chris Murray

**Absent:** Barbara Manners

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**1. Public Comment**

Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, shared copies of an email sent to Rudy Marconi with the Board of Selectpersons concerning commissioners who haven't maintained the minimum meeting attendance threshold, specifically for the ECDC. He asked the BoS whether those seats are automatically considered vacated, and if the commissioners need to be reappointed or replaced.

**2. Appointments**

**a. Russell Fink – WPCA Candidate**

Russell Fink was in attendance. Mr. Fink shared he recently moved to Ridgefield, is a civil engineer, and works as a contractor in Norwalk.

As a member of the WPCA, Maureen Kozlark confirmed Mr. Fink attended a recent WPCA meeting and is recommended by Amy Siebert, WPCA Chair. Ms. Kozlark asked if there was anything that stood out to him at the meeting. Mr. Fink stated he was impressed the Town was being proactive to determine a wastewater solution.

Sean Connelly asked what Mr. Fink would bring to the WPCA. Mr. Fink shared his contracting perspective would be beneficial should issues arise with contractors working for the Town by understanding their perspective and contributing to amicable solutions.

Rudy Marconi asked about Mr. Fink's Part 107 (Drone Pilot) license. Mr. Fink confirmed he flies drones frequently and finds it beneficial for work projects, specifically for land surveying and creating highly accurate 3D models. Mr. Marconi asked about leveraging those skills for the current sewer project. Mr. Fink confirmed it would be helpful, even simply for tracking progress and sharing updates with the public.

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Russell Fink to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA). Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

**b. Tim Vilinskis – Affordable Housing Candidate**

Tim Vilinskis was in attendance. Mr. Vilinskis shared he's a 20-year Ridgefield resident, his family were builders, previously served as an officer on the Builders Association of the Hudson Valley where he became interested in planning and zoning, and voiced enthusiasm for the Branchville Transportation-Oriented Development Plan.

Maureen Kozlark asked about planning and zoning. Mr. Vilinskis stated clear planning and zoning codes are important to maintain a specific architectural look and feel and shared he's a proponent of form-based coding as was implemented in Kingston, NY.

Chris Murray talked about an article included in Mr. Vilinskis application packet, and that he appreciated his perspective. Mr. Murray voiced his support.

Sean Connelly asked his thoughts on the Affordable Housing Plan recommendations. Mr. Vilinskis shared his support for middle affordable housing, specifically for lower-cost housing with fewer restrictions and "light touch density" to be subtly woven into the fabric of the community.

Debra Ann Franceschini, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, voiced support for Mr. Vilinskis, sharing he'll bring a wealth of information, specifically from a builder's point of view.

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Tom Vilinskis to the Affordable Housing Committee. Chris Murray seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

**3. Affordable Housing Alternates**

Debra Ann Franceschini, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, was in attendance. Topics discussed included:

- Ms. Franceschini requested to have alternate members added to the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) to have them fill-in if a member is unable to attend. Ms. Franceschini shared the AHC has good candidates and would like to find a way to keep them engaged.
- Rudy Marconi confirmed allowing alternates would require an ordinance change and a Town Meeting. Sean Connelly shared alternates should attend all meetings to be aware of AHC matters. Chris Murray asked how many alternates they're seeking, Ms. Franceschini confirmed 1 would be enough.
- The Board of Selectpersons invited Ms. Franceschini and the AHC to attend a future meeting to provide a full update.

**4. Tiffany Carlson, Recycling Coordinator – Ridgefield Waste Scorecard**

Tiffany Carlson, Recycling Coordinator, was in attendance. Topics discussed included:

- Ms. Carlson shared Ridgefield has one of the State's most successful compost programs, receiving 28.25 tons of food scraps and creating 71 cubic yards of compost last year. Compost is currently managed with existing Highway Department staff but would require additional labor if the program grows to its maximum capacity.
- Ms. Carlson's goal is to increase the number of users at the Recycling Center, which accepts more items than can go in curbside recycling (i.e. e-waste, textiles, which also generate a little income for the Town).

- Ms. Carlson shared she's preparing for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Recycling Center (April 20, 2024), and that she'd like to provide regular updates to the BoS so the Town can see the impact of their work.
- Sean Connelly asked about nip deposits, which partially funds the Recycling Coordinator role. Ms. Carlson confirmed those deposits are \$6,000/year, or roughly 30% of salary.

At 7:30pm, the Board of Selectpersons Meeting broke for a Public Hearing about the Ridgefield Library Agreement. Rudy Marconi opened the floor for the Public Hearing.

Mr. Marconi read a letter from Brenda McKinley, Library Director.

There were no public comments.

At 7:42pm, the Board of Selectpersons Meeting resumed.

## **5. 2022 & 2023 EMPG Application Resolutions**

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the resolution for the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) for 2022 and 2023. Chris Murray seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to amend her motion to approve the resolution for the Emergency Management Program Grants (EMPG) to 2024. Chris Murray seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

## **6. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

### **a. January 30, 2024**

***Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2024 Board of Selectpersons meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

### **b. February 7, 2024**

Sean Connelly corrected the spelling of Governor Lamont.

***Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024 Board of Selectpersons meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***

## **7. Selectperson's Report**

Rudy Marconi shared a request from the Ridgefield Cultural District that they be added as an accepted group of the Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs. Mr. Marconi shared they would need a president and board, which they don't currently have.

Mr. Marconi shared a draft policy with the BoS about electronic communication with residents, based on conversation with Andrew Neblett, IT Director, stating collected information may only be used for its initial purpose and not for any additional purpose without further opt-in. Sean Connelly voiced support for formalizing this policy. Maureen Kozlark and Chis Murray asked about managing additional opt-in processes. Mr. Marconi confirmed Mr. Neblett and Gillian

Sheerin, Town Administrative Office Manager, would be responsible, and this discussion would be added to the agenda for a future BoS meeting for formal approval.

Mr. Marconi shared copies of a document from the Board of Education with the BoS, asking they enter a discussion about a lack of space for certain educational programs and search for additional space. Programs are Pre-K, Transition Program, and the Alternative High School. Mr. Marconi shared there's a specific state statute which requires the Board of Education create an educational spec determining the space and curriculum need, then passed onto the BoS. Mr. Marconi and Mr. Connelly voiced support for further discussion in an executive session.

Mr. Marconi shared a Public Hearing is scheduled for March 20 to discuss adding the Fair Rent Commission to the Ridgefield Code of Ordinances.

Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, asked about the commissioner absenteeism on the ECDC. Mr. Marconi shared he's spoken with Glori Norwitt, Chair, and confirmed 2 members have had less than the required 2/3 participation. Mr. Marconi shared 1 member is highly involved outside of the meetings and the other is a vascular surgeon. Mr. Marconi has discussed with Ms. Norwitt and stated remediation is the responsibility of the Chair. Ms. Kozlark shared the ECDC is very compliant with providing information and updates with the BoS.

***Sean Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Chris Murray seconded. Motion carried 4-0.***