



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

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February 2021

Roberta Barbieri has 30 years of experience in corporate environmental sustainability and is currently Vice President of Global Sustainability for PepsiCo. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire and two Master's degrees, both from the University of New Haven, in Environmental Engineering and in Environmental Science. Roberta is an avid hiker and gardener and currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Woodcock Nature Center. She is also active in the Norwalk River Watershed Association and The Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment (RACE). Roberta is a life-long resident of Connecticut and has lived in Ridgefield for 6 years. She joined the Commission in July 2021.

Jim Coyle is an environmental engineer with over 45 years of experience in environmental management. He has worked for the New York City EPA where he was the Director of the Office of Environmental Impact and several engineering consulting firms directing environmental programs and studies for both government agencies and private industrial companies. He is a former Associate Professor at the Pratt Institute Graduate School of Architecture and Planning where he taught a course in environmental impact assessment. Jim has lived in Ridgefield since 1992.

He was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for several terms. He is currently the Chairman of the Commission where he has been a member since 2016. He has a BS in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University, an MS in Applied Mathematics from NYU, and an MA in Urban Studies from Hunter College.

Dave Cronin has a degree in Physics and Optics and worked for many years at Perkin Elmer. During 40+ years living in Ridgefield he has been a hike leader and trail maintainer for the Appalachian Mountain Club. After retiring from Perkin Elmer in 2000, he joined the Commission and has spent his 20 years on it maintaining and building trails on the town's open spaces.

He has also provided all of the mapping used by the Commission in defining these spaces. In addition, he spent many years with Meals on Wheels of Ridgefield and for more than 15 years has volunteered with AARP to do tax returns for the elderly under the TaxAide program.

Jack Kace was Vice President of Environmental and Safety Affairs for Hoffmann La Roche, Inc. and led its sustainability efforts. His responsibilities also included energy conservation, industrial hygiene, radiation safety and hazmat transport. He was a member and/or chairman of several national organizations of the most environmentally proactive U.S. corporations. Prior to joining Roche, he was an environmental engineer for two other large companies.

Jack has lived in Ridgefield since 2008 and joined the Commission in 2013. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman and Assistant Treasurer. Jack has a Doctor of Engineering Sciences from Columbia University in 1972. He was the first graduate of an interdisciplinary program in environmental engineering administered by the chemical engineering department.

Erik Keller is a horticulturist and therapist at Ann's Place, a not-for-profit facility that helps those with cancer. Prior to this, he ran a management consulting business, Wapiti LLC, where he advised software companies and investors. For over a decade, he worked at Gartner, in Stamford, as a Research Fellow and Vice President. He has lectured at major corporations around the world and as an adjunct at Yale University. At the beginning of his career, he worked as a journalist and editor for a variety of publications.

Erik has lived in Ridgefield since 1991. He has coached children's sports teams, volunteered at the Boys & Girls Club and designed/built sets for the Ridgefield High School's annual Spring musical. He joined the Commission in 2019. Erik has a Bachelor's in Engineering Science from SUNY at Stony Brook. He also has received certification from the University of Connecticut as a Master Gardener and from The New York Botanical Garden in Horticultural Therapy.

Daniel C. Levine is the founder and Artistic Director of ACT of CT, one of the northeast's most acclaimed regional theaters located in Ridgefield, CT. Daniel also serves as an artistic advisor for The Ridgefield Playhouse. Daniel graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University as a pre-medical student (Biology major, Theater Arts minor). Upon graduating, Daniel attended Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. After his second year at Tufts, Daniel was cast in his first Broadway show - significantly altering his career path. Since then, Daniel has appeared in many Broadway shows and National Tours including Les Miserables, The Rocky Horror Show, Chicago, Mamma Mia, Tommy, Little Shop of Horrors, and Jesus Christ Superstar (receiving a Tony Nomination for Best Revival).

Daniel was also nominated for Best Actor in a Musical by The League of American Theaters and Producers. Daniel is the CEO of Big Apple Tutoring, LLC – one of Manhattans largest educational tutoring agencies, which he founded in 1995. Daniel has been a resident of Ridgefield since 2010 and joined the Commission in 2016. He was named one of TownVibe's "Ridgefield 25", honoring 25 leaders of the community who help make Ridgefield a dynamic place to live and work.

Jean Linville is a visual artist, educator, writer and native plant farmer at The Hickories Organic Farm in Ridgefield, CT. In all of her endeavors, she aims to raise people's awareness and appreciation of their local ecosystems and thereby encourage participation in ecological restoration projects. For over 33 years, Jean was a visual arts educator in New York State. She has lived in Ridgefield since 2007.

Currently, Jean serves on the Board of the Norwalk River Valley Trail and is a member of the Caudatowa Garden Club. She became a member of the Commission in 2020. Jean holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Union Institute and University, a MA in Fine Arts and Arts Education from Vermont College of Norwich University and a BS in Art Education from SUNY Buffalo State College.

Jim Liptack has been a Ridgefield resident since 1990. He teaches AP and College Prep Physics as well as Physical Science and Chemistry at Wilton High School. He moved into education shortly after receiving a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology. He studied further, earning a MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport and a C.A.S. from Southern Connecticut State University in Secondary Science Education. Jim has spent the last 32 years teaching science at Wilton High School.

Jim has been actively working with the Appalachian Mountain Club, as trail crew since 1978 and trail section manager since 1984. He has been a trail maintainer for the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association since 1984. For the last ten years, he has also been the overseer of trails for the Connecticut Appalachian Mountain Club, scheduling and overseeing all maintenance and construction on the trails.

Jim has been an open space ranger for the Conservation Commission since 1990 and has worked as a volunteer sawyer under the direction of Mr. Cronin and Mr. Sharp since 2019.

Matt Sharp is a Senior Vice President at Citibank with a 30-year career in banking. Matt has lived in Ridgefield since 1997 and joined the Commission in 2020. He was a Scout Troop Leader for Ridgefield's Troop 116 from 2006 to 2019. While in scouting, Matt served as Advancement Chair, Committee Chair and High Adventure Chair.

He planned and led backpacking trips to the Adirondacks, Appalachian Trail CT & NY, Yosemite, John Muir Trail, High Sierra Trail Sequoia/ Mt. Whitney, Teton Crest Trail, Rocky Mountain National Park and North Cascade National Park. In 2019, Matt became a Trail Maintainer for the CT Appalachian Trail. Matt has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Fordham University.

Kitsey Snow has lived in Ridgefield since 1988. She has been involved with the Commission since 2006. Other related affiliations include the Norwalk River Watershed Association and the Ridgefield Garden Club. She has also been involved with the Norwalk River Valley Trail, the Pollinator Pathway, youth sports and the PTA.

After graduating from Wheaton College, she worked for First Manhattan Investment Co. and Bankers Trust. She has also worked for The Elements Art Gallery in Greenwich. Kitsey is certified by NOFA (the Northeast Organic Farming Association), as a Master Gardener from University of Connecticut and as a Pesticide Applicator.

Allan Welby has been a Ridgefield resident since 2006 and is a systems administrator for a Greenwich, CT, trading firm. Allan grew up in the Midwest, where days wandering the family farm in southwest Wisconsin instilled a deep appreciation of nature and the outdoors. Past president of the Chicago Ornithological Society and editor of their monthly magazine, *The Undertail Covert*.

Allan is an avid (he would say "obsessed") birder. He leads bird watching trips and workshops for a number of Connecticut and New York nature organizations, and particularly enjoys introducing newcomers to the wonders of the bird world. Allan graduated from Drake University with a degree in English and was named to the Commission in 2019.