

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting October 17, 2022 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri James Coyle Jack Kace Erik Keller
Peter Nichols Matt Sharp Benjamin Nissim Allan Welby
Jim Liptack

Absent: Jean Linville, Kitsey Snow

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 03, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 9:0

2. SPECTACLE LANE EASEMENT SWAP

Mr. Coyle consulted with the Town's Counsel to discuss the easements and current deed restrictions. The Counsel determined that RCC does have the authority to change the language in the deed.

Motion was made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) to approve the Spectacle Lane Easement Swap contingent upon IWB safety and environmental impact as well as pending Town approval. Vote 9:0

3. OPEN SPACE DECLARATION

Mr. Coyle reminded the commissioners of the Open Space Declaration is on the agenda at the BOS meeting October 18th and would appreciate all members to attend.

4. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

- 162 Old West Mountain Road

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nissim), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session Vote 8:0 to discuss potential litigation.

Returned to public meeting 7:29pm.

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission not delay the deadlines for the NOV. A letter will be sent to the violators and their attorney tomorrow. Vote 9:0

- 258 West Mountain Road

RCC will work with Andy Hally on the best path forward to remove the fence posts on RCC property. Mr. Coyle to request an update.

5. OPEN SPACE

5.1 Trail Survey

Ms. Snow worked with Ms. Draper to obtain her ten-point system of to assess trails for possible closer. The trail committee (Mr. Liptack, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Sharp) will continue with their examination and will begin assessment at Hemlock Hills.

Mr. Sharp arranged to walk the BS trails October 28th.

6. MCKEON FARM

6.1 Crab Apple Trees

The RCC has previously decided to plant in the Spring, more substantial sized crab apple trees in McKeon's orchard section. The crab apples need to be native trees to the Northeast, so limiting the selection to Sweet or American varieties. RCC may decide to look into more native or heirloom fruit trees and not limit the selection to crab apple depending on the size and availability. Mr. Keller and Ms. Barbieri will report back.

6.2 Henny Penny Planting

Henny Penny farm has been awarded a grant for various projects at McKeon Farm. RCC received a request for more tree plantings on McKeon's grass lands. After further consideration and discussion, RCC would rather not disrupt the grasslands with any tree plantings.

Motion was made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) to recommend not to plant anything at McKeon pursuant to the Federal Grant Henny Penny received. Vote 9:0

7. 2023 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

RCC approved the 2023 meeting schedule with minor changes in July. Schedule will be sent to Town Clerk.

8. 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL

Mr. Coyle mentioned the Annual Appeal letter will go out this month. Requests for donation will be mailed to around 10,000 commercial and residential addresses.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby is working on installing nesting boxes and gourd houses in RCC's open space.

8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

October 25 - Nissim

November 9 - Snow

IWB

October 27 – Kace

November 10 – Keller

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle mentioned the BOS meeting tomorrow evening.

Regarding the Native Plant Policy, The policy did not account for orders that were already in process. Parks and Rec have an order for trees that falls into this situation and should not be held up by the new policy. Mr. Coyle will work with Parks and Rec as well as the BOS to support their efforts to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M. Vote: 9:0.