

APPROVED MINUTES



MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

Meeting April 24, 2023 at 7PM

Present: Jack Kace Erik Keller Jean Linville Peter Nichols
Benjamin Nissim Kitsey Snow Allan Welby

Absent: Roberta Barbieri, Jim Coyle, Jim Liptack, Matt Sharp

Jack Kace 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 April 10, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0

2. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Matthew Archer, an Eagle Scout with troop 116 presented his proposal for a dock at Shadow Lake.

The RCC would like to see a few revisions to the project to ensure viability. Mr. Archer will present the revisions at the next meeting.

3. TREE COMMITTEE VACANCY

The RCC asked to have a response from Ms. Dunnington by April 27th.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that if no response after 4/27 the RCC will advertise the position. Vote: 7:0 Snow abstained.

4. CONSERVATION AREA FOR CLASSES

The RCC discussed the request and determined that the Parks and Recreation commission would be a better fit for their needs.

5. BOY SCOUTS / PINE MOUNTAIN TRAILS

Mr. Keller, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nichols hiked the proposed trails which is a good use of the property and a beautiful walk once complete. The RCC will keep an eye on the environmentally sensitive areas once under development. Mr. Nichols noted there are 3 to 5 deer stands on the property that need to be removed. Mr. Sharp will contact the Deer Committee for removal.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve four miles of trails on the Boy Scout Property. Vote: 7:1

6. RAIL TRAIL CUTTING

Mr. Kace gave an update on his conversation with Eversource and the tree cutting along the rail trail. Mr. Kace will have a follow up conversation with Eversource and include Ms. Snow and Mr. Keller.

7. MCKEON VISION COMMITTEE (MVC)

7.1. Invasives Removal

Moved to next meeting.

7.2. Chestnut Tree Project

Mr. Nichols is working on a project plan to determine what is required and what will be provided from the Chestnut Tree organization. Mr. Nissim will review the contract and provide comments.

UPON motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Keller), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to approve up to \$650 to mow the lower Lauzen field at McKeon. Vote: 7:0

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

8.1 Annual Meeting

The RCC discussed the list of attendees as well as confirmed that the wording on the plaque is consistent with either an individual or group Edith Meffley award. We have previously voted on a group award this year.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller have been interviewing summer workers and expect to have four employees this summer to help out at our open spaces.

Mr. Kace mentioned the Main Street Tree Project and the possibility for RCC to donate. RCC will discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Welby mentioned that the Ridgefield Thrift Shop grants have been awarded.

Mr. Keller has received all the items for the apple orchard planting at McKeon, however will not plant the bareroot plants until Fall to give them time to acclimate and best chance for survival.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

May 02 – Nissim

May 16 – Sharp

IWB

April 27 – Nichols

May 11 – Snow

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Kace mentioned that the RCC may want to attend the tree committee's meetings once a month and add this into the rotation.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nissim), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M. Vote: 8:0.