

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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



Meeting May 8, 2023 at 7PM

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

Absent: Jim Coyle, Jim Liptack

Attendance: Cohen & Wolf Attorney Alex Copp, Eagle Scout Projects Matthew Archer, Charlie Lovett and Logan Tole

Jack Kace called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 6:0

2. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Matthew Archer, an Eagle Scout with troop 116 presented his revisions for the dock on Shadow Lake. **UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve \$1,258 for the construction of the dock. Approved 7-0.

Charlie Lovett an Eagle Scout with troop 116 presented his proposal for 5 benches at Shadow Lake. **UPON** motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$800 for the construction 5 benches at Shadow Lake. Approved 7-0.

Logan Tole an Eagle Scout with troop 76 presented his proposal for repair of the bridge that goes over the dam at Shadow Lake. **UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$500 for the refurbishing of the bridge that goes over the dam at Shadow Lake. Approved 7-0.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into executive session. Vote: 7:0

Returned from to public at 8:33pm.

4. CT TRAILS DAY

RCC will participate next year and organize events in advance.

5. TREE COMMITTEE VACANCY

The RCC agreed to wait to hear back from Ms. Dunnington by May 22nd.

6. SHADOW LAKE DAM

Ms. Snow walked the dam last week and spoke to Jake Muller. The town does have a process in place to manage the dam. The RCC will ask Jake to attend the next meeting to review and explain the process.

7. MAIN STREET TREE PROJECT

The RCC discussed the Main Street Tree Project and would like to participate given their use of only native plants and trees. RCC will look into a press release if conditions are accepted.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nissim), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a \$5,000 donation contingent on the projects exclusive use of native plants and trees. Vote: 7:0

8. MCKEON VISION COMMITTEE (MVC)

8.1. Invasives Removal

Ms. Barbieri will reach out to Fat and Sassy Goats to get on their schedule this week, the RCC is hoping for 7 days of use with the goats to remove invasives.

8.2. 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 reviewed the contract and had some questions with regards to risk transfer and indemnity. Mr. Kace asked for a 5 year look back at minutes from other towns with similar projects to show a year-by-year analysis of the project.

9. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

9.1 Annual Meeting

The RCC agreed to move forward with emailing out the invitation this week.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nichols mentioned that the upper meadow at McKeon had been mowed.

Mr. Keller will be planting some of the apple trees in the apple orchard next week.

Mr. Kace mentioned the article in the Ridgefield Press in regards to the Eversource tree cutting along the rail trail. Eversource told us that the regulations that apply to their transmission lines do not permit trees or other plants more than 15 feet tall.

Mr. Welby will be hosting a bird walk on Wednesday morning 7am at McKeon.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

May 16 – Sharp
June 6 – Barbieri

IWB

May 11 – Snow
May 25 – Welby

*Ms. Linville will be filling in for Ms. Snow on May 11th.

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 9:07 P.M. Vote: 7:0.