

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting November 27 2023 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri Jim Coyle Jana Hogan Jack Kace
Erik Keller Jim Liptack Pete Nichols Matt Sharp
Allan Welby

Absent: Jean Linville

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add 2024 Meeting Schedule as Item #4 to the agenda. Vote: 8:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0

2. IWB UPDATE / CACIWC CONFERENCE

RCC's CEO, Caleb Johnson reported on attending the CACIWC conference; workshops on policy of issuing Noticeable of Probable Violations, current Inland/Wetlands violations and will work with RCC to brainstorm a way to educate the public more on the presence of wetlands and open space.

3. EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATIONS

Alec Rogers and Andrew Pearl gave their final Eagle Scout presentations: Barrack Hill Refuge bridge repair and Aldrich Park trail redesign. Both projects were hugely successful and the RCC appreciates all their hard work.

4. ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR

UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the annual meeting calendar with two revisions made at the meeting. The schedule will be sent out for Town approval. Vote: 8:0

5. ANNUAL APPEAL

The annual appeal letter is set to be mailed out by the end of this week. The RCC will post on social media and be ready for donations online and through the mail. The letter will be mailed out to all Ridgefield residents and businesses.

RCC will also email and post on social media a request for donation tomorrow for Giving Tuesday.

6. WALK BOOK 2024

Mr. Coyle is working on the updated version of the walk book. He will meet with Mr. Sharp, Mr. Liptack, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Keller to review maps so as to publish the most up to date version of all Ridgefield open space trails. The decision was made to use the smaller version of the Walk Book.

7. CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGETS FY25

Mr. Coyle is working on finalizing the capital budget request for 2025. The budget request is due by December 1st. RCC is requesting funds for a new truck and a brush hog. It was suggested that waste cleanup coverage for open space properties be added to part of the expense budget request.

8. PINE MOUNTAIN SIGN VANDALISM

Mr. Coyle and Mr. Liptack reported the signs Mr. Nichols made at Pine Mountain had been vandalized, torn down and broken. Mr. Nichols will replace the ones that were not able to be rehung.

9. LEDGES CLEANUP

Mr. Coyle mentioned this was an issue a few years ago and had never been completed. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nichols will assess the amount left to clean up the property and report back to RCC and possibly arrange for Highways to aid in clean up.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keller is moving forward on the Whitman Preserve; Mr. Coyle, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller will be presenting at the next P&Z meeting on December 5th.

Mr. Nichols has replaced some split rail fencing at McKeon and will keep an eye on others if replacements are needed.

Mr. Kace brought up the tree cutting Eversource is doing around the Town. The RCC agreed to draft a letter to them regarding their tree replacement policy.

11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

December 5 – Barbieri

December 19 – Kace

IWB

December 14 – Keller

December 28 – Linville

12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle discussed the Tree Committee and the confusion of membership, specifically Ms. Snow who the RCC appointed. The RCC can confirm that we appointed Ms. Snow and she will be sworn in this week.

Dr. Market will meet with First Selectperson prior to being interviewed at the next BOS meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:58 P.M. Vote: 8:0.