

## APPROVED MINUTES

### MINUTES

## Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • [conservation@ridgefieldct.org](mailto:conservation@ridgefieldct.org)



**Meeting November 28, 2022 at 7PM**

**Present:** Roberta Barbieri      James Coyle      Jack Kace      Eric Keller  
Jean Linville      Jim Liptack      Peter Nichols      Benjamin Nissim  
Matt Sharp      Kitsey Snow      Allan Welby

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

Mr. Coyle asked to add budget submissions as an item to the agenda. UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried it was RESOLVED to add the item to the agenda.

---

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0 Keller abstained.

---

### 2. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

#### 2.1 258 West Mountain Road

Mr. Keller has been working with the property owner to comply with the NOV requirements. The fence that was on open space property has been completely removed. The pathway the property owner created on open space property will require a variety of ferns to be planted to restore back to open space.

Mr. Keller also mentioned the deadline is approaching for another West Mountain property owner to remove cut debris on open space property by December 1.

---

### 3. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Coyle sent around a revised version of committee assignments based on the comments from the last RCC meeting. Mr. Coyle looked further into Flood and Erosion Control Board set up. It was concluded that the RCC should take a passive approach to implementation of the FECB given the nature of the law.

---

### 4. NRI UPDATE

The NRI committee (Ms. Linville, Mr. Coyle, Ms. Snow) will be meeting Wednesday with Mike Rubbio and a graduate student to work through the digital story map, trying to integrate with everything on the website. iNaturalist data will be incorporated into the NRI text. We hope to include videos and drone footage in the online version of the story map.

The NRI maps presented at the meeting will be emailed out to RCC members for feedback. The next meeting of the NRI Committee with the GIS specialist will be in person to finalize map details.

The NRI outline presented at the meeting will be reviewed by RCC members to identify writing assignments in the coming weeks.

Dr. Kace mentioned a fault line that exists in Hemlock Hills. This Ridgefield area contains the remnants of the point of collision of two continents. RCC will add this to the NRI maps once sources can be documented.

---

## 5. RIDGEFIELD RANGERS

Mr. Nichols will order hats for the Ridgefield Rangers. RCC agreed a two-logo placement design would show up better on a khaki hat. A mockup will be emailed around to RCC members for approval.

---

## 6. MCKEON FARM SIGN

Mr. Nichols will work on a mockup of the McKeon sign post to hang the new location sign for the entrance to McKeon Farm, taking into account P&Z sign and post requirements.

Mr. Keller mentioned the parking area for McKeon had been completed by the highway department, however they have created a drop off of around 16" exists right in front of the entrance gate. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Keller will work on an immediate safety solution.

---

## 7. BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

Mr. Coyle sent around the annual budget submissions for capital and expense budgets. Increases for line items were put in for fencing, goats and the NRI update. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Kace will present the budget at a BOS meeting scheduled early next year.

---

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keller will be working on the newsletter for early January and encouraged submissions over the next few weeks.

Mr. Welby mentioned the NRVT meeting that will be taking place December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm online hosted by Stantec Engineering. The meeting ID: [251 317 055 478](#) passcode: XzuQbV

Ms. Linville mentioned she is working on continued efforts to collaborate with Woodcock Nature Center to host events for next year. She has also been attending the Lake Symposium, which has been focused on Lake Zoar and Candlewood Lake, which brings into question who is overseeing Ridgefield waterbodies.

Mr. Coyle to follow up with Dave Buccitti for Pine Mountain parking.

---

## 8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

### P&Z

December 13 - Barbieri

December 27 - Kace

### IWB

December 08 – Nichols

December 22 – Linville

---

## 9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle let the First Selectman know the RCC's commitment to the West Mountain Road property acquisition. He is waiting on an update in the process.

The RCC had a request about collecting firewood on Open Space properties. The RCC will not allow wood to be removed from any Open Space properties.

Update on the Conservation Enforcement Officer Position, the search is still on as one candidate did accept the position, but then declined.

Mr. Coyle has reached out to P&R for a meeting on the new Native Plant Policy.

---

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M. Vote: 10:0.