

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting February 13, 2023 at 7PM

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

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

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Linville), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to add Scout presentation and Tree Committee appointments as agenda items. Vote: 9:0

1. SCOUT PRESENTATION

Mr. Asher from Troop 116 presented the RCC with a \$1,000 donation, which is a result of the Troop's recycling program where the troop collects, sorts, and redeems recycled products around the Town. The RCC is most appreciative of this donation.

2. TREE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Two Tree Committee appointments are up for renewal.

UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the RCC reappoint Paul Shotton to the Tree Committee. Vote: 8:0 yes 1:0 opposed. Once the RCC hears from Ms. Dunnington, the RCC will either approve her renewal or advertise the opening.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of January 30, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0. Mr. Keller abstained.

4. REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR COMMISSION ACTIONS

Mr. Coyle and Ms. Snow reviewed the policy for commissioners to be conscious not to have discussions over email and reserve those discussions for the public meetings. Making simple edits to documents is okay; however, if there is a change in direction, the RCC will have to add as an agenda item.

5. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

5.1 Old West Mountain Road

The property owner's attorney emailed a 30-page Power Point presentation only hours prior to the RCC meeting. The RCC will review and the Enforcement Committee will make comments and suggestions on next steps.

5.2 Invasive Bamboo

The RCC will revise and mail a letter concerning invasive bamboo near open space on Florida Refuge.

6. MCKEON CHESTNUT RESTORATION PROJECT

The RCC is concerned with how much is involved in maintenance and oversight. Ms. Snow will find out more information in order for the RCC to decide whether to participate in the program.

7. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

7.1 Pine Mountain Road

Mr. Coyle will put together a packet and distribute to the First Selectman for review.

7.2 West Mountain Road

The contract closed Friday and the Town now owns the property. Mr. Coyle will obtain a copy of the deed and will find out how the new open space will be managed.

8. NRI REPORT UPDATE

Ms. Linville and Ms. Snow have been back over the mapping, documents, figures and tables. Formatting is proving to be cumbersome on the document, so will move to obtain input in writing.

The Ridgefield Library will have the NRI maps out for display July and August.

Ms. Linville, Ms. Snow, and Mr. Nichols are participating in a tree survey February 21.

9. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

9.1 Social Media

Posts related to human resources should only be posted by HR. Posts related to events and items of interest can be posted by all members on multiple platforms. Ms. Setterlund will prepare written guidance accordingly for commission members.

9.2 Annual Meeting

Several commissioners are working on the details for the event set to take place May 24, at the ACT theatre.

9.3 068 Magazine

Mr. Coyle will respond to the request from the magazine regarding geocaching.

10. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission is meeting a number of times over the next four months. The RCC will review our charter and ordinance to decide what changes need to be made.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sharp had a Scout reach out that is interested in rebuilding the camp site on Hemlock Hills.

Mr. Welby mentioned the Thrift Shop grant will be delayed this year to late April and his project will need to begin earlier.

UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED to allocate \$2,100 for purchase of purple martin birdhouses. Vote: 9:0.

Ms. Barbieri is also on the RACE board in Ridgefield and would like to promote the RCC during Earth Week at the Ridgefield Library. She will report back on the topics of interest.

Ms. Snow let the RCC know the Tree Committee is redoing their Tree Book and submissions can be emailed to Ryan on the Tree Committee.
She also mentioned April is native plant month.

12. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

February 21 – Nichols
March 7 – Snow

IWB

February 23 – Sharp
March 09 – Barbieri

Mr. Sharp and Ms. Snow will swap dates.

13. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle announced the new Conservation Enforcement Officer started today, Caleb Johnson.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M. Vote: 9:0.