

## 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 March 1, 2023 at 7PM

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

Absent: Matt Sharp

Attendance: Cohen & Wolf Attorney Alex Copp

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

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#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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#### 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Potential Litigation)

Upon motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session. Vote 8:0 to discuss potential litigation.

Returned to public meeting 8:02pm.

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#### 3. NATIVE PLANT POLICY

Mr. Coyle, Ms. Snow and Ms. Barbieri will schedule meetings with several groups including Parks & Rec, Lounsbury House, Board of Education to discuss the native plant policy and how the RCC can help with a planting plan.

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#### 4. TREE COMMITTEE VACANCY

Once the RCC hears from Ms. Dunnington, the RCC will either approve her renewal or advertise the opening.

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#### 5. MCKEON CHESTNUT TREE RESTORATION PROJECT

The RCC is continuing due diligence on the Chestnut Restoration Project to understand the scope of what is needed to be successful. Mr. Nichols volunteered to lead the project with Ryan Bossis of the Tree Committee. Ms. Snow and Mr. Nichols will coordinate with the tree committee on what items they are willing to help with. They will report back with possible location selections.

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## **6. SUMMARY OF FOREST SURVEY WITH DAVE BEERS**

Ms. Linville, Ms. Snow, Mr. Welby and Mr. Nichols joined Dave Beers on a walking survey of the following open space properties: Sarah Bishop, Richardson Park, Kiah's Brook, Old Sib, Levy Park, West Mountain Reed, West Mountain McManus and Colonial Heights. Dave is preparing a full report for the RCC that he will send out next week. The RCC agreed Dave is a wonderful resource and will put together a plan for him to come back and survey other open space locations.

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## **7. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Commissioners are working on details for the event set to take place May 24.

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## **8. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

### **8.1 Flood and Erosion Control Board**

Mr. Nissim is in the process of reviewing a number of other Town charters around the state to find out how the Flood and Erosion Control Board is set up and who is responsible to manage. From his findings, most are stand-alone entities appointed by the First Selectman or positioned under the Inland Wetlands Board. The next step will be to read through the minutes to get an understanding of current work and what is being done. Mr. Nissim will report back with recommendations.

Mr. Coyle reminded commissioners to review our charter and ordinance to decide what changes need to be made.

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## **9. MCKEON BEES**

A request was made to the RCC for placement of private bee hives on McKeon Farm. The RCC is not in favor of bringing in other bees as they will compete with the current bee population.

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## **10. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION**

Nothing new to report.

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## **11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE**

### **P&Z**

March 07 – Sharp  
March 21 – Welby

### **IWB**

March 09 – Barbieri  
March 23 – Kace

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## **12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Coyle clarified that small committee meetings of 4 or less do not need to be notified or posted to Town Hall; however any meeting with 5 or more commissioners will need to have proper notification.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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