



APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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May 4, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Carroll Brewster Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Jack Kace
 Erik Keller Daniel C. Levine Jean Linville Matt Sharp
 Kitsey Snow Allan Welby

Absent: Eric Beckenstein

Beth Peyser and Jon Ruiz also attended via teleconference.

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Ms. Lake took the minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Land Conservancy – Postponed until Mr. Carpenter can attend.

ATVs at Pine Mountain – Mr. Coyle spoke to the Ridgefield Police Chief about illegal ATV use at Pine Mountain. The Chief requested more information before proceeding. Mr. Cronin & Mr. Malwitz will investigate possible entrance points and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Coyle suggested putting up signs and barricades at entrances, if possible. Mr. Cronin will scrape off, or paint over, the illegal blazes on town property while investigating.

Status of State Open Space – Mr. Kace discovered 44 acres of state land not counted as open space on the Open Space Map while working on the assessment of town open space. Mr. Kace and Mr. Coyle would like to pursue acquisition of those parcels as possible additions to the open space inventory. Mr. Coyle will discuss the findings with Mr. Marconi.

Schlumberger Trail – Lucas Kaye, Eagle Scout candidate, will present his bridge project at the next RCC meeting. Mr. Coyle will confirm bridge width requirements with Mr. Marconi and hopes to set up a meeting with Mr. Handshy to discuss bridge funding.

Boy Scout Property – Mr. Coyle and Mr. Sharp spoke with David Sippin, a member of the CT Yankee Council to discuss acquisition of the Boy Scout property on Pine Mountain. Mr. Sippin will present the proposal to additional members of the Council and get back to the RCC.

Miscellaneous

- Thanks to Matt Sharp and John Liptak for removing the blow down in Florida Refuge. And thanks to the bikers for removing the blow down on the green trail in Hemlock Hills.
 - Mr. Cronin will reach out to the person who recently contacted the commission about putting in a bike trail in Hemlock Hills to get specifics about the proposed trail.
 - Spencer Carlson, RCC ranger, asked to put up posters, at no cost to the RCC, on town kiosks to reinforce proper hiking etiquette. The commission agrees this would be beneficial and thanks Spencer for taking on the project.
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3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Peaceable Refuge (Revere Drive tree dumping) – Two probable violations have been reported. The first, 1 Revere Drive, has evidence suggesting the property owner cut trees on his property and dumped the trunks into the refuge. The second, 2 Revere Drive, appears to have dumped yard waste and tree debris into the refuge. Ms. Peyser will issue NOPV's to both property owners.

Pine Mountain (meditation space) – Use of vegetation and rocks, as well as trail clearing has been done to provide access to a man-made meditation site, which is a violation of the Open Space Use Ordinance. The creator of the site, Mr. Ruiz, joined the discussion and apologized for unknowingly violating the Ordinance. He invited the RCC to visit the site to see if a compromise might be reached. Ms. Lake will poll the group about an upcoming Thursday site visit.

Ledges (dumping) – Mr. Coyle will contact Stef Zandri to remove remaining deer hunting bait stations. Jake Muller is handling removal of the larger dumped items.

Mamasasco Lake (tree cutting) – Ms. Peyser will investigate tree cutting that could be a possible wetlands violation.

Casey Lane & Shadow Lake (dumping/graffiti) - Mr. Welby and son removed car parts dumped on the picnic island at Shadow Lake.

Mr. Keller mentioned an abutting neighbor of the Casey Lane Open Space may have dumped some trees debris into the open space. Ms. Peyser will investigate and get back to the RCC with her findings.

4. DEEP OSWA GRANT APPLICATION – Most of the commissioners' input have been received except for the support letters. Good progress has been made.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z May 5 – Beckenstein (canceled)
May 12 – Brewster
May 26 – Cronin

IWB May 14 – Kace
May 28 – Levine

6. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Logo Contest – Mr. Levine and Ms. Linville picked two finalists out of a great group of submissions. The consensus favored the logo of the second finalist. Ms. Lake will send out thank you emails to all participants and create gift bags for the two finalists.

STEAM Backpacks – Ms. Linville reminded commissioners to submit any ideas by noon on Tuesday.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Property Acquisition)

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Keller) and carried it was RESOLVED to enter Executive Session at 8:20pm. It was later resolved to exit at 9:04pm (motion by Cronin, seconded by Brewster).

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Keller), and carried it was RESOLVED that:

The commission approves the expenditure of up to \$2,000 by the Chairman to retain a yellow book appraiser to review the two appraisals that were received by the RCC for the Bear Mountain property.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.