



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
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May 18, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Michael Carpenter, Phil Kearns, Beth Peyser, Jon Ruiz, Quin Mahoney and Lucas Kaye also attended via teleconference.

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

Mr. Levine asked to add a community outreach item, "Where in the Woods?" to the agenda.

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add Mr. Levine's item to the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 4, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Land Conservancy - Mr. Carpenter mentioned his earlier conversations with Mr. Coyle focusing on the RCC and Land Conservancy joining forces on land acquisition in Ridgefield. It is his hope that the two agencies will continue to work together and support each other's efforts in town conservation areas.

Eagle Scout Projects

Quin Mahoney – Quin proposed building two bridges in the Schlumberger property. The two bridges will be 3-1/2 feet wide and varying lengths. The bridges will rest on a rock base with stones gathered from the area. The project will be done over two weekends and the approximate cost of materials will be \$639.92.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded, (Keller) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the two bridge designs and the \$639 cost for materials.

Lucas Kaye – Lucas proposed to build the fourth and final bridge in the Schlumberger property. The bridge will be 14' long, 4' wide and will have a 4' high railing. He will also improve a stepping-stone rock bridge nearby. He hopes to start the project in June/July or as soon as scouts are cleared to begin work. The approximate cost of materials is \$475.62.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Beckenstein), and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the bridge design and up to \$500 for materials.

Mr. Cronin and Mr. Keller will work with the boys to create construction guidelines for the bridges so that structure support and overall bridge design remains consistent within the open spaces.

ATVs at Pine Mountain – RPD has been patrolling Pine Mountain and recommends installing rock barriers to close off access points from Pine Mountain Road to the town land. Mr. Cronin said that would not solve the problem as the key access point to the open space is via the Cioffoletti property. Mr. Coyle will contact Mr. Cioffoletti and ask for assistance on this matter.

Bikes in Hemlock Hills/Pine Mountain – Ms. Snow is concerned about unauthorized biker trails in Hemlock Hills. Mr. Cronin will contact Mike Malwitz to set up a hike in Hemlock Hills to look at the trails and discuss steps going forward.

Tree Planting – Ms. Snow is interested in using the Old Sib fund to plant trees in town. Ms. Snow, Mr. Levine and Mr. Beckenstein will meet and develop recommendations to present to the RCC.

3. FINANCE

Budget Tracking – Current projections point to being overbudget.

Invoice Approvals - Mr. Cronin suggested purchasing a new pole hedge trimmer for \$304.

UPON motion made (Cronin), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve \$304 for the pole hedge trimmer.

Spending Approval Limit – Mr. Coyle noted that is the current spending limit before needing RCC approval is \$250. He recommended raising the limit to \$500.

UPON motion made (Kace), seconded (Beckenstein), and carried, it was RESOLVED to increase the spending limit to \$500 before needing RCC approval.

4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Pine Mountain (meditation space) – Unauthorized construction of the meditation space on open space is a clear violation of the Open Space Ordinance, yet the commission is conflicted on how to proceed. Mr. Coyle will designate a “Committee on Meditation” that will discuss the matter further and come up with alternative solutions for the violation.

UPON motion made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster) and carried, it was RESOLVED to continue the meditation space discussion at the next meeting.

Mamanasco Lake (tree cutting) – Ms. Peyser determined the tree cutting is not an open space issue, but possibly a wetlands violation. She will follow up with the IWB.

Casey Lane (dumping/graffiti) – The homeowner near the Casey Lane open space has dumped the tops of cut down ash trees in town open space. Ms. Peyser will send a NOPV to the homeowner. The panda graffiti on the trail will be removed by the summer workers.

Turtle Ridge (dumping) – Ms. Snow should forward her concerns to Ms. Peyser for investigation.

5. DEEP OSHA GRANT APPLICATION – Mr. Coyle asks the commissioners for assistance writing the sections on pages 6-9. Mr. Welby agreed to help. Mr. Brewster will discuss the letters of support with Mr. Coyle.

6. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z May 12 – Brewster
May 26 – Cronin

IWB May 14 – Kace
May 28 – Levine

7. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STEAM Backpacks – Ms. Linville sent around the four topics and items needed for the backpacks. Commissioners should send comments to Ms. Linville so the backpacks are ready to go when the library reopens.

RCC Where in the Woods? Contest – Mr. Marconi and Mr. Levine created a contest called Where in the Woods? that the town and RCC will co-sponsor. The motivation is to encourage residents to get outside during the town's reopening while safely exploring the town's open spaces. Ms. Snow, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Welby will help Mr. Levine with the project.

8. NEW BUSINESS – None.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Property Acquisition) – No session.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Progress on the *Committee Assignments Working Draft (February 11, 2020)* will be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

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