



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
(203) 431-2713 • [conservation@ridgefieldct.org](mailto:conservation@ridgefieldct.org)

**June 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, June 15, 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 Michael Schneider also attended via teleconference.

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

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## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 1, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

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## 2. OPEN SPACE

North Street Mowing/Pond Care – The homeowner at 281 North Street contacted the RCC about meadow mowing practices and improving the pond on open space near his property. The RCC feels nature is taking its course and should allow it to remain in its natural state. The RCC does recommend that abutting neighbors limit grass cutting near the pond and to stop using fertilizers/pesticides on their lawns. Mr. Welby will visit the site and report back with his findings.

ATVs at Pine Mountain & McManus – Waiting to hear if FCNEMBA has discussed possible solutions to ATV access with Cioffoletti.

A ranger contacted Mr. Cronin about new ATV use in McManus. Trees have been cut down and stones relocated for ATV access. The summer workers will replace stones and put up open space signs.

Bikes in Hemlock Hills/Pine Mountain – The new trail in Hemlock Hills is almost finished and old trails will be blocked and closed with signs.

UPON motion duly made, (Cronin) seconded, (Kace) and carried, it was RESOLVED to accept the new trail in Hemlock Hills.

The roll call vote was 5 Yea (Brewster, Coyle, Cronin, Kace, Sharp), 2 Nay (Snow, Welby) 2 Abstentions (Keller, Levine).

Blast Signage at Trailheads – The Lyme Connection contacted the RCC about placing BLAST signs at trailheads. After reviewing the content of the sign, it was agreed that the signs do not recommend best practices, do not comply with the RCC’s conservation message, and were not specifically geared towards hikers. While sympathetic to the cause, the RCC decided to decline the request.

Levy Park – Mr. Cronin would like to reorganize the trails to make it easier for hikers. Mr. Cronin will work on the new trail layout for the next meeting.

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### 3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

#### Dumping

- Doubleday/Casey Lane – The homeowner had a tree company pull the debris from open space. The probable violation has been remedied.
- 1 Revere Drive – The homeowner removed most of the tree segments and cut up a larger, unreachable tree segment into logs to speed up decay. The RCC will allow the cut sections to remain in open space. The probable violation has been remedied.

#### Structures

- Old Trolley – A letter explaining the open space violation was sent to surrounding property owners. An Old Trolley homeowner contacted Ms. Peyser and told her his sons unknowingly started building the illegal structure and are willing to remedy the violation. The family was given 30 days to remove all materials and return the area to its original condition by July 1, 2020.
- Conant Road – The violators stopped building the structure, removed the materials and returned the area to its natural state. The probable violation has been remedied.

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**4. DEEP OSWA GRANT APPLICATION** – Work continues. The application must be submitted next week.

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### 5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

**P&Z** Jun 9 – Keller

Jun 23 – Levine

(Jun 16 -Special Meeting/POCD – Linville/Snow)

**IWB** Jun 11 – Linville

Jun 25 - Sharp

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**6. NEW BUSINESS** – None.

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**7. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS** – Mr. Coyle attended the recent BOS meeting that discussed the RCC land acquisitions. Both properties were accepted by the BOS. The public hearing is scheduled for June 24 and the town meeting, July 15.

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### ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Colleen Lake

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