



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

June 29, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, June 15, 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 Allan Welby

Absent: Kitsey Snow

Beth Peyser and Gabriela Rogers also attended via teleconference.

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

Mr. Coyle asked to add two items to the agenda; McKeon Haying, and Where in the Woods?.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add the two items to the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting were discussed.

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Eagle Scout Presentation – Gabriela Rogers – Gabriela proposed a revision to the yellow trail in Levy Park to make the trail more appealing, interesting, and hiker-friendly. The project will be performed in three phases. Phase 1 will mark the trail. Phase 2 will include brush/tree clearing and rock work. Phase 3 will be blazing and removal of blazes from the old trail. She plans to begin in early September and will have assistance from 3-4 adults and seven scouts. The cost of the project will be approximately \$250 for paint & supplies.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve Gabriela's Levy Park project and appropriate \$250 to cover costs.

North Street Mowing/Pond Care – Mr. Welby walked the site and spoke to property owners about the open space and pond abutting their properties. It was agreed that cleaning up the pond is unnecessary and will not be done by the RCC. In addition, only the RCC will be responsible for mowing the open space. Ms. Peyser will send a letter to the four abutting homeowners informing them that the RCC will be mowing the area once or twice a year and ask them to refrain from mowing the open space. She will also offer the homeowners a chance, if interested, to propose an invasive removal and planting plan for the pond area.

Levy Park – Mr. Cronin has designed a reroute of the Levy Park yellow trail to make it more appealing and easier for hikers.

UPON motion made (Cronin), seconded, (Kace) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to reroute the yellow trail in Levy Park to make the area more appealing and hiker-friendly.

Craigmoor Road – Neighbors presented the BOS with a petition opposing the RCC's purchase of the Craigmoor one-acre parcel. In addition, the neighbors have offered to purchase the property from the owner, which he is inclined to accept. After some debate, the RCC decided not pursue the Craigmoor purchase at this time and will inform the Ridgefield Press of the change in plans. Mr. Welby will contact the Thrift Shop about possibly applying grant funds received for the Craigmoor property to the purchase of the Bear Mountain parcel.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Cronin) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to abandon the purchase of the Craigmoor property.

McKeon Haying – Mr. Katz contacted Mr. Cronin about the RCC's plan for haying at McKeon Farm this year. Mr. Cronin will contact Mr. Katz and inform him that the fields will not be hayed this year to promote bird nesting and pollinators but will be cut in late October/early November.

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Structures

- Old Trolley – Ms. Peyser inspected the site recently and noted some deconstruction has occurred. The violation remediation deadline is set for July 10, 2020.

Mowing

- 508 North Salem – Ms. Peyser inspected a possible mowing violation and sent a NOPV to the property owner.

4. DEEP OSWA GRANT APPLICATION – The application is complete and in the mail to CT DEEP.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z Jun 23 – Canceled
Jul 7 – Linville
Jul 14 – Sharp
Jul 28 - Snow

IWB Jun 25 – Sharp
Jul 9 – Snow
July 23 – Welby

6. NEW BUSINESS –

Where in the Woods? – Mr. Levine was pleased by the number of participants in the contest. The contest will end on Wednesday, July 1st. The winner will receive a monetary award and swag bag from the RCC.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

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