



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

July 13, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:	Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
	Erik Keller	Jean Linville	Matt Sharp	Allan Welby

Absent: Eric Beckenstein, Daniel C. Levine, Kitsey Snow

Beth Peyser also attended via teleconference.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 29, 2020 meeting were discussed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Welby), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. BUDGET UPDATE

– The FY2020 expense budget is projected to be approximately \$1200 over budget.

3. OPEN SPACE

McKeon Apple Tree Replacement – One of the apple trees fell over and is lying in the orchard. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Cronin will organize the removal. Whitney Freeman and the RCC recommend replacing the dead tree with another apple tree. Mr. Brewster will look into purchasing the replacement tree this fall

Garden of Ideas Property Purchase – A potential buyer contacted the RCC with concerns about the pedestrian and conservation easements on the property. Mr. Coyle will discuss concerns with the potential buyer and legalities with Dave Grogins.

Bear Mountain Property – The Thrift Shop has agreed to allow the RCC to use grant funds towards the purchase of the Bear Mountain property.

Dead Tree at McKeon – Ms. Lake will contact the Tree Warden again about removing the dangerous tree at the entrance to the parking area at McKeon.

4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Structures

- Old Trolley – The structure is disassembled but most of the materials remain and the site has not been restored to the original condition. The violator has agreed to remove the remaining materials by the end of the week. Ms. Peyser will notify the owner that he has until Monday, 7/20, to remove all materials and restore the area to its original condition or he will be subject to daily fines.

Mowing

- 508 North Salem – Ms. Peyer and Mr. Coyle spoke to homeowner and asked her to stop mowing the open space behind her property. The homeowner agreed but asked for permission to continue to clear the gate area to keep it functional and also to trim a one-foot strip, twice a year, along the deer fence in open space to eliminate invasives growing up the fence.

Ms. Peyser will send a letter to the homeowner explaining that the RCC will allow her to remove any vegetation growing in the deer fence and will also allow her to trim the gate area to keep it functional.

- North Street Open Space – Letters were sent to the four abutting homeowners requesting they stop mowing the open space beyond their property line. In addition, the RCC offered the opportunity, if interested, to present a proposal for invasive removal/replacement. Ms. Peyser will inspect the area for compliance in August.

5. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – Mr. Coyle discussed the progress of commission assignments last reviewed in February.

- Mr. Sharp & Mr. Cronin will prioritize open space properties into Class A & B (open space with trails) and Class C (no trails) to determine prime areas for maintenance and funding.
- Mr. Kace, Mr. Brewster and Mr. Beckenstein will meet to draft solar array, steep slope and tree cutting ordinances.
- Mr. Coyle will contact the attorney for the Szymanska property about possibly selling a portion of the estate.
- Mr. Keller will begin looking at town properties with excess land that might be cut off as designated open space.
- Mr. Coyle will work on the Open Space Plan.
- Mr. Cronin and Mr. Welby will review the NRI and determine what is needed to update the study.
- Ms. Linville will reach out to Ms. Snow to discuss invasive education & management.

6. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

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

IWB Jul 9 – Snow
July 23 – Welby

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – Commissioners are urged to participate in the Zoom Town Meeting on Wednesday at 7:30pm in support of the Bear Mountain property purchase.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

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