

APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
September 12, 2016

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Eric Beckenstein
Tim Bishop
Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Jack Kace
Kitsey Snow
Dan Levine, Voting Alternate
Ben Oko, Voting Alternate

The following members were absent:

Jim Coyle
Alan Pilch

Whitney Freeman, Chris McQuilken and Beth Peyser, Conservation Enforcement Officer, were also in attendance.

Ms. Baker chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 29, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 29, 2016 are approved
and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT - No report.

3. OPEN SPACE

a) Enforcement Update – Ms. Peyser recapped enforcement issues.

795 North Salem Road – Town attorney Grogins is working with the homeowner on a settlement for the tree cutting violation. A settlement of \$10,000 was proposed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Conservation Commission rejected the proposed \$10,000 settlement offer.
Ms. Baker will draft a letter to Mr. Marconi and cite the Old Lyme court case for reference.

4 Encampment Place – Ms. Peyser inspected the property and was unable to find the 5 trees that were agreed to be planted. Ms. Peyser and Ms. Snow will meet with the homeowner on Wed., 9/14 at 8am to examine the

planted trees. Ms. Peyser will mark two trees on open space considered dangerous by the homeowner for John Pinchbeck to review and will take a picture of “invasive” plants in open space bordering the property that the homeowner claims are causing health issues.

20 Mopus Bridge – Repeated attempts to meet with the homeowner to discuss a resolution to the violations have failed. Ms. Peyser will begin the citation process by sending a Probable Notice of Violation to the homeowner.

55 Canterbury Lane – The issue remains with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Beckenstein will follow up this week.

82 Canterbury Lane/Dream Rider Farm – A neighbor reported possible violations on open space. Upon inspection, Ms. Peyser noted 3 violations. A Probable Notice of Violation will be sent to the homeowner along with 3 warnings for:

- 1) Placement of structures (horse jumps) on open space
- 2) Construction of fencing within the boundary of open space
- 3) Unauthorized mowing of Open Space

- b) McKeon Farm - Apple tree pruning – The commission discussed different options regarding apple tree pruning. Ms. Snow will contact Mr. Pinchbeck for his recommendation.

- Whitney Freeman Agreement - Ms. Freeman explained the proposed terms for her new contract. She is asking to extend her contract from Oct 15, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2021 and increase her animals to a maximum of 30 sheep, 10 goats and two llamas. In addition, she will apply for a grant to install a well. The Town would be responsible for covering costs not included in the grant. The RCC asked for more specifics on the well such as flow rate, usage, and estimated cost to install. Ms. Freeman will provide this information in advance of the next RCC meeting so that it can be discussed.

Land Conservancy partnership – Dr. Oko would like to work with the Land Conservancy in an effort to contact potential homeowners about land donations. The RCC agreed that the effort was worthwhile.

FCRCP – Dr. Oko discussed a map being developed that shows desirable areas to preserve within the county. He will demonstrate how to use the map at one of the upcoming RCC meetings.

4. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

- a) Meetings for Attendance

Sept. 20 – Ms. Snow

Oct. 4 – Ms. Baker

Oct. 12* - Mr. Beckenstein (Wed. meeting)

Oct. 18 – Mr. Bishop

- b) New & Continued Business

Ms. Baker and Mr. Kace will have their bi-annual meeting with members of P&Z/IWB on 9/16/16. Topics will include stormwater management/fill recommendations, a possible lake association meeting, IWB course attendees,

and continued appreciation for the positive working relationship between the two commissions.

5. ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Main Street Improvements - Ms. Baker attended a meeting on 9/8/16 to review DOT plans and suggestions for improving traffic flow on Main street. Fewer trees will be eliminated in the current scenarios. The discussions will be ongoing.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was
RESOLVED to add the following items to the agenda:

Concerned resident about deer hunters on open space – The email was forwarded to Chief Roche and Stef Zandri of the deer committee. No action needed by the RCC at this time.

Shadow Lake Ranger request – Mr. Levine updated the commission with several ranger reports and questions regarding trail maintenance. One of the rangers for Shadow Lake, Patrick Irving, asked to maintain the trails using his mower and equipment. Mr. Cronin will check with Parks & Rec for approval.

Paved parking across from 275 Mountain Road – A paved parking area has caused concern. It is unknown if it is on RCC land or belongs to the neighborhood association. The RCC sees no reason for action as long as it is available for trail parking.

Fall worker – Mr. Cronin suggested hiring someone to help with fall mowing and tree removal. He will contact Bob Schneider and Hans Williams about possible applicants.

Farmingville Walkway – Beth Peyser contacted Farmingville School principal, Ms. Gately, about a request from a family to maintain a walkway between Walnut Grove Road and the school. Mrs. Gately is looking into maintenance of the walkway.

FEMA study – The RCC agrees with the Town's suggestion to FEMA regarding the updating of area flood maps.

Rivers Alliance request for support – The RCC will offer support to the Rivers Alliance in their efforts regarding the Connecticut's development of a comprehensive statewide water plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake