



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

Meeting
October 18, 2021 at 7 P.M.

Present: James Coyle Dave Cronin Daniel C. Levine
 Roberta Barbieri Kitsey Snow Jack Kace
 Erik Keller Matt Sharp

Absent: Jim Liptack, Jean Linville, Allan Welby

Guests: Jeremy Capocci

Jim Coyle chaired the meeting. Dr. Kace took the minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Cronin), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of October 4, 2021 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 7:0. (Ms. Snow arrived after the vote).

2. SCOUT PRESENTATION

As there was not sufficient time for the commission to review the Scout proposal for a pollinator garden at McKeon Farm, this item was postponed until the November 1 meeting.

3. OPEN SPACE

3.1 Town wide conservation easement on open space properties: Mr. Coyle, Dr. Kace and Mr. Keller are still working on this project with Mr. Grogins (Town Counsel). Mr. Coyle explained the purpose of the easement to protect open space properties. Mr. Coyle will give another update at the next meeting.

3.2 Boy Scout Property: The issue that deals with ownership of part is still under investigation. Mr. Grogins is reviewing the deeds for the three parcels the commission wish to purchase. These total 17 acres. The need for a new appraisal was discussed and it was agreed that given data on recent open space purchases a new appraisal was not needed. Mr. Coyle hoped to start negotiations in a few weeks.

3.3 Land donation of parcel G08-0012: The Phase 1 study is still outstanding. Until this is completed, acceptance of this potential land donation cannot move forward through the Town approval process. In anticipation of receiving the Phase 1 shortly the BOS scheduled a Public Hearing for November 3 and a Town Meeting for November 17, 2021.

3.4 OSWA grant for Bear Mountain property: Mr. Coyle explained that Town Counsel is preparing a new title document to reflect the new project description prepared by the surveyor. He also indicated that the project description had to be revised per DEEP request. This involved the commitment of an additional \$400 for the surveyor that needed to be approved.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of an additional \$400 for the surveyor. Vote: 8:0.

3.5 McKeon mowing: Lauzen Field and the upper meadow were hayed/mowed last week by Carlos Trigueiros. However, a complaint was received from a neighbor regarding post mowing conditions including fencing, ruts, and trail access. Mr. Coyle will speak to Carlos regarding repairing these conditions.

A discussion ensued regarding maintenance planning at McKeon, particularly regarding Lauzen Field. The McKeon Farm Committee was reconstituted with Commissioners Snow, Sharp, and Barbieri and tenant Whitney Freeman to update the current maintenance plan.

3.6 Annual Appeal: Mr. Coyle explained that a meeting had been scheduled with the First Selectman, Finance, IT and others to discuss how an on-line donation system could be implemented. Implementation would take too long for this annual appeal year, so the usual mailing process will be used. The meeting will proceed in order to be able to implement this for 2022.

3.7 Fall/winter maintenance projects: As commissioners had not the time to review the list prepared by Mr. Cronin, Mr. Coyle requested that they do so for the next meeting.

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Two bird walks were conducted and were well received. Nature walks will be considered. Mr. Levine said that his plan for the next newsletter was in the November/December timeframe.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

No issues were reported.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle said that he and Ms. Snow had planned to meet with Charlie Taney regarding the Ridgefield portion of the NRV, but that meeting did not occur because of Mr. Taney's illness. He reiterated the commission's support for the project and will meet at a future date regarding issues raised by community members.

Mr. Cronin indicated that he would be leaving the commission in the next few months as he is moving from Ridgefield. Mr. Coyle indicated that the commission would start the process for finding a replacement.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Keller), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Vote: 8:0.