

APPROVED MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting August 15, 2022 at 7 PM

Present: Peter Nichols James Coyle Jack Kace Erik Keller
 Allan Welby Jim Liptack Jean Linville Kitsey Snow

Absent: Roberta Barbieri, Matt Sharp

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 7-0

1. COMMISSION VACANCY

The Commission had four candidates submit their resumes for consideration Erik Anderson, Elie Schechter, Paul Shotton, and Benjamin Nissim. All four candidates were called for a 10-to-15-minute interview.

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Commission go into Executive Session at 8:00pm. The session concluded at 8:08pm.

The Commission voted 7 to 1. Benjamin Nissim will be recommended to the BOS to fill the alternate commissioner vacancy.

2. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Mr. Coyle mentioned there is nothing new to report.

3. OPEN SPACE

3.1 BS Property Trails

Mr. Sharp conducted a site visit for Commission members to walk the proposed trails at Pine Mountain. The Commission would like to schedule another site visit to walk the trails they were unable to get to. The Commission talked about a possibility of reducing some of the unsustainable trails at Pine Mountain (and Hemlock Hills) as well as avoiding all vernal pools. It was proposed to tackle the proposal to connect the trails in two phases, which would offer time to revisit the proposed paths and establish which trails are more sustainable as well as assess the vernal pools and their proximity to the proposed trail connections. Mr. Sharp will arrange another site visit.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

4. INVASIVE SPECIES

4.1 McKeon

A number of commissioners commented that the work of removing invasives on both sides of the rock walls along Old Stagecoach Road looks amazing.

Ms. Snow will reach out to Whitney at McKeon to discuss plans for plantings and report back to the Commission.

4.2 Invasive Policy

Mr. Coyle and Ms. Snow discussed the new Invasives policy to be written as an ordinance versus a policy and will be on the BOS agenda either 9/9 or 9/21.

5. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Snow gave an update on the NRI events; the moth walk had a great turn out and went from 9pm to 1 am and the butterfly walk this past weekend had a smaller group. Working on the best way to advertise these events.

Ms. Snow and Ms. Linville will be meeting with Michael Rubbio this Wednesday to discuss a story map and hope to have him share at the Commission's next meeting on 9/7.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby mentioned the mowing at McKeon on Lauzen and the upper meadow should take place soon.

Ms. Snow had a request to collect mayflies at the Nod Hill Refuge to see if a certain species is still there.

Mr. Kace brought up a rezoning parcel to be aware of. The area of Routes 7 and 35 may have an open site cleanup item. Mr. Coyle will check in with Mr. Hally to see if he has any further information.

Mr. Welby mentioned the discussion regarding deer hunting will be at our next meeting, 9/7.

Ms. Snow and Mr. Nichols discussed a possible annual meeting next Spring.

7. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

September 13 – Linville

September 28 - Linville

IWB

September 8 – Snow

September 22 – Welby

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle mentioned that the Administrator will be out of the office for the next two weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 9:03 P.M. Vote: 8:0.