



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Flood and Erosion Control Board

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713

November 14, 2016

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Eric Beckenstein
Tim Bishop
Carroll Brewster
Jim Coyle
Dave Cronin
Alan Pilch
Kitsey Snow

The following members were absent: Jack Kace, Dan Levine, Ben Oko.

Beth Peyser, Ken Sturm, Maryfrances Mettrick, and Chris McQuilken were also in attendance.

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 31, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 31, 2016 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

– Mr. Brewster approved two invoices for the annual appeal mailing; \$1,585.49 for postage and \$2,645 for printing.

3. OPEN SPACE

a) Enforcement Issues

- **82 Canterbury Lane** – Ms. Peyser discussed the three Notices of Probable Violation (NoPV) and a new complaint. A neighbor claimed trees have been cut in open space to improve connection from the Sturm farm to the North

Salem bridle trail system. Mr. Sturm, property owner, explained his stance on the issues and agreed to work with the RCC to resolve the violations. He agreed to remove the aluminum gate and the horse jumps, and he will stop mowing the meadow. Mr. Coyle, Ms. Snow, and Ms. Peyser will visit the farm Thursday, November 17th, to review the site and determine whether the RCC will allow Mr. Sturm to maintain and use an existing trail in the open space.

- **20 Mopus Bridge** – The land swap is no longer possible after a surveyor noted that the land to be conveyed in the swap was not owned by Ms. Weber. In a phone conversation with Ms. Lake, the owner indicated that she would rather comply with the restrictions of the current easement. Ms. Peyser will review the current restrictions and compliance and begin violation proceedings, if necessary.

Meadow maintenance in open space in general was discussed. Ms. Snow, Mr. Cronin, and Mr. Pilch will research meadow transition and present findings at the December 12th meeting.

b) McKeon Farm

- **Henny Penny Agreement** – The five-year lease will be discussed at the November 16, 2016 Board of Selectmen meeting. If approved, it will move to a public meeting on December 7th followed by a town meeting/vote on December 19th or 20th.
- **Farm Management Plan** – Ms. Snow, Mr. Cronin and Mr. Brewster met with Whitney Freeman and Hans Williams to discuss maintenance for McKeon farm. Ms. Freeman and Mr. Williams agreed to mow fields selected by the RCC when requested. Mr. Williams will also do the haying. A second community garden is recommended for a portion of the farm once the well is viable. The RCC was contacted by Jim Zurlo, President of the Community Garden, to set up a meeting to discuss the venture.

Ms. Snow will provide the RCC with the list of goals/objectives for the farm along with a map outlining which parcels could be used and for what.

c) Ranger Recognition – Ranger hats were distributed. An additional 60 hats will be ordered for RCC rangers.

d) 267 Ivy Hill – The homeowner presented her proposal for a 2:1 land swap. The RCC will evaluate the proposal using the RCC's *Guidelines for Easement Changes and Land Swaps*. It was suggested that the owner contact Planning and Zoning to see if there were issues re lot size, etc. related to her proposal. Mr. Coyle, Ms. Baker, and Mr. Bishop will walk the site on Friday, November 18th at 8:30am.

4. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Dec. 6 – Ms. Snow

Dec. 13 – Mr. Bishop

Dec. 20 – Mr. Levine

b) New & Continued Business

- **130 Alcott Way (Casagmo)** – The project involves dredging two detention ponds. The RCC will schedule a walk.
 - **180 Wilton Road East** – A pond dredging and dam reconstruction project. The RCC will schedule a walk.
 - **75 Ledges Road** – A new single family residence to be built on steep terrain. The RCC will schedule a walk.
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5. ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Ms. Snow mentioned that the CT DEEP grant application for a rain garden at the corner of Prospect Street and Prospect Ridge was denied. She will investigate other alternatives.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) RCC Projects/Goals for 2017 and Land Conservancy – Mr. Coyle asked the commissioners to present possible goals/projects for 2017 at the December 12th meeting. Joan Corley, President of the Land Conservancy, will attend the December 12th meeting and join in the discussion.

8. FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

Mr. Bishop and Ms. Snow will meet with Mr. Marconi and Mr. Fisher on Friday, November 18th to discuss town dams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION began at 9:35pm and concluded at 9:45pm concerning the Whitbeck estate.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake