



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

December 12, 2016

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

The following members were present:

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

Joan Corley, from the Land Conservancy, and Beth Peyser were also in attendance.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2016 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURERS REPORT

a) Mr. Brewster discussed the proposed 2017-18 expense budget. The RCC will request adding \$2,500 to Maintenance/Grounds for field mowing and fence repair at McKeon Farm. \$200 will be added to Meeting Minutes for two additional meetings in 2017. \$100 will be added to Office Supplies for poster and map production costs. \$2,000 will be switched from Maintenance/Grounds to Auto.

The RCC will also submit a Capital Expenditure request for a GPS unit, with an estimated cost of \$10,000.

b) Mr. Brewster reported that \$14,253 has been collected from 112 donors with an average donation of \$127.

3. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

a) **795 North Salem Road** – The Town has begun a lawsuit against the homeowner. The homeowner was served on December 2, 2016.

b) **82 Canterbury Lane** – Meadow maintenance was discussed. It was agreed that the RCC is responsible for maintaining open space meadows, not an abutting property owner. Ms. Peyser will walk the area with Ms. Snow and also investigate deeds and maps for easement locations and restrictions regarding trails near Dream Rider Farm.

c) **20 Mopus Bridge** – A Notice of Probable Violation was mailed to the homeowner on December 9, 2016. The homeowner has been invited to attend the RCC meeting on January 9, 2017 to discuss the violations and possible remedies.

4. 2017 GOALS AND PROJECTS

Dr. Oko mentioned his collaboration with Land Conservancy member Michael Anderson on the acquisition of desirable properties in Town. Dr. Oko and Mr. Brewster will continue working with the Land Conservancy on acquisitions and also to promote public awareness of the benefits of land donation.

Mr. Coyle asked RCC members to look over the Goals/Projects list and email thoughts and ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

5. OPEN SPACE

a) **41 Lakeside Drive** – A property owner has offered to donate a small parcel to the RCC. The RCC will walk the property on Friday, December 16, 2016 at 8am.

b) **Meadow Transition** – Ms. Baker and Mr. Pilch provided research regarding meadow maintenance. It was agreed that abutting homeowners will not be allowed to maintain open space meadows. The RCC will evaluate individual parcels to determine if scheduled mowing and/or the planting of native species to control invasives will improve the parcel.

6. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Dec. 20 – Mr. Levine

Jan. 3 – Mr. Beckenstein

Jan. 10 – Ms. Baker

Jan. 17 – Mr. Bishop

Jan. 24 – Mr. Brewster

b) New & Continued Business

Ms. Snow and Mr. Pilch attended the December 5, 2016 P&Z/IWB meeting. Mr. Pilch's comments on 130 Olcott, 180 Wilton Road E and Ledges Road were well received and will be incorporated in the Summary Rulings.

As a follow-up, P&Z agreed to inform the RCC about where the dredging material removed from the ponds at 130 Olcott will be discarded.

7. CONTINUING TOPICS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

a) McKeon Farm/Henny Penny Lease – The Town Meeting and Vote is scheduled for December 19, 2017 at 7:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

b) Whitbeck Estate – The Probate Judge handed down a list of dates and orders to the Executrix.

c) Deer Hunt – Mr. Coyle explained that notification of the hunt is sent to residences within a certain radius of the parcel, not to every household in the vicinity.

d) Main Street Trees – Mr. Coyle attended a recent meeting that discussed removing trees and parking spaces to improve Main Street traffic. The DOT is continuing to revise the plan based on meeting input.

e) Chairman Rotation – Mr. Coyle's 3-month chair position is over December 31, 2016.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to extend Jim Coyle's Chairmanship through December, 2017.

f) Protect CT State Lands Sign-On – The RCC discussed the petition that supports amending the state constitution to better protect public lands.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to sign the petition in support of the effort.

8. FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

Mr. Bishop will create a 2017 quarterly meeting calendar for the Board and for meetings with Mr. Marconi and Mr. Fisher.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake