



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

March 6, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following member was absent: Ben Oko

Beth Peyser, Hans Williams and Julia Cencebaugh were also in attendance. Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREE COMMITTEE

- a) Reappointments** – Ms. Cencebaugh updated the commission on Tree Committee activity since her appointment last year. Ms. Cencebaugh is enthusiastic about continuing with the committee and partnering with the RCC on tree planting in Ballard Park this spring.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to reappoint Ms. Cencebaugh to another 3-year term on the Tree Committee.

3. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- a) George Washington Highway** – After further investigation by Ms. Snow and Ms. Peyser, it appears that five of the seven property owners along the conservation easement have probable violations. Ms. Peyser will send a certified and regular letter to homeowners inviting them to a meeting to discuss the situation with members of the Enforcement Committee of the RCC.

b) 20 Mopus Bridge – Attorney Jowdy sent the RCC the aerial footage and field cards obtained during his investigation. After reviewing the documents, the RCC determined there is no concrete proof that the shed existed prior to the conservation easement in 1991. Mr. Coyle will inform Attorney Jowdy that his client has 90 days to remove the shed or violation proceedings will begin.

4. OPEN SPACE

a) McKeon Farm – Hans Williams would like to continue grazing 6 steer and 55 turkeys in 2017. In addition, Mr. Williams offered to provide monthly field mowing for all fields and bi-annual haying; replace broken fence rails (purchased by the RCC), and provide an estimate to lime the fields either this spring or late fall. Ms. Snow will draft the new agreement. Ms. Lake will get a second estimate for field liming from an outside contractor.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Mar. 21 – Ms. Baker (Bridle Trail)
Apr. 4 – Mr. Beckenstein (Old Quarry)
Apr. 11 – Mr. Bishop
Apr. 21 – Mr. Brewster

b) New & Continued Business

71 Ledges Road – Mr. Pilch explained that the proposed development of the single-family house on the property is reasonable given the constraints of the lot.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's comments on 71 Ledges Road to P&Z/IWB.

Bridle Trail – Mr. Pilch reviewed the project which involves a re-subdivision of three lots into one lot. The current plan will reduce the amount of overall disturbance but issues with the stormwater detention basin should be addressed. P&Z/IWB plan to walk the property on March 19, 2017.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's preliminary comments to P&Z/IWB as DRAFT, possibly amended after walking the site.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

a) Tree Planting in Ballard Park – The Tree Committee would like to partner with the RCC to plant trees in the park. The RCC will select and provide two trees for planting.

b) Save the Sound – The RCC will co-sponsor the presentation with the NRWA on either May 9 or May 22.

Land Conservancy – The Land Conservancy's national accreditation was discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to congratulate the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield on achieving national accreditation.

Mr. Coyle will send a congratulatory letter on behalf of the RCC to Chairman Corley and Mr. Martin.

NEMBA – Mr. Cronin continues to work with the group on trail construction. Mr. Cronin is also developing a map of Ridgefield's premier hiking trails, encompassing Hemlock Hills, Pine Mountain, Bennetts Pond and Pierrepoint. Ms. Lake will get printing estimates for the tri-fold 11x17 map. NEMBA may be able to help with printing costs. Ms. Baker will assist with the text component of the map.

Woodcock Nature Center – Ms. Snow reported that the Ridgefield school vernal pool project will take place at the nature center (date TBD). Guides are needed for the project. If available/interested, please contact Kitsey.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake