



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

April 3, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following members were absent: Dave Cronin and Ben Oko.

Beth Peyser was also in attendance.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Brewster presented the budget report and asked the commission for input on projected end of year spending. The remaining funds could be used to purchase trees, tree removal, lime fields at McKeon Farm, and support the Wooster school partnership. The commission will revisit expenditures at the end of May.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to spend up to \$500 to lime fields at McKeon Farm.

3. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- a) **795 North Salem** - Town attorneys are working with the homeowner's insurance company regarding a settlement. The lawsuit is progressing through the court system.

b) 20 Mopus Bridge – Attorney Jowdy provided corroborating testimony from four people that the shed has been located within the easement area since 1980. The RCC will send a letter to the homeowner allowing the shed to remain under easement restrictions including that: no mowing or grazing; the shed shall remain in its natural state and cannot be maintained/repared/replaced; and the easement will be periodically inspected.

c) Bobby's Court – Ms. Peyser will continue to monitor the area, especially in the fall during leaf season. The summer workers will install Open Space signs.

d) George Washington Highway – Ms. Peyser will send a letter inviting the seven easement abutting homeowners to a meeting on May 8, 2017 at 7pm. Ms. Peyser will also investigate the original intent of the easement to determine if it was a part of the 10% open space requirement for sub-division.

4. OPEN SPACE

Mr. Coyle mentioned that the NRVTA will be meeting with Messrs. Marconi and Coyle, and Ms. Snow on Thursday, April 6th regarding planning for the Ridgefield portion of the trail. The NRVTA would like support from the town to progress fund raising for the trail planning consultant to start work on a 1.25-mile segment near Bobby's Court.

Mr. Kace suggested the RCC begin sending a welcome letter and open space map to new homeowners. New homeowners with property abutting open space parcels and/or containing conservation easements will receive a slightly different welcome letter outlining the benefits and responsibilities of owning property next to open space and/or containing easements. The commission supported implementing this effort as a way of helping protect open space and for recognition of the efforts of the RCC. Mr. Kace and Ms. Baker will draft the letters.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Apr. 4 – Mr. Beckenstein (Old Quarry)
Apr. 21 – Mr. Bishop
May 2 – Mr. Brewster
May 16 – Mr. Cronin

b) New & Continued Business

55 Old Quarry – Mr. Pilch described his concerns with the mixed use and assisted living facilities on the five acre subdivision. The concerns involve clear-cutting the upland review area, quality of runoff into Great Swamp and Ridgefield Brook and the use of vegetative swales to improve water quality. The commission also recommends restricting storage of hazardous materials in the self-storage units below the apartments.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to send Mr. Pilch's comments, with minor amendments, to P&Z/IWB.

Bridle Trail – Ms. Baker reported on the March 21, 2017 P&Z/IWB meeting that discussed the revised three-lot subdivision project into a single-family residence. The RCC's recommendation for "consideration of prudent and feasible alternatives which might have a less detrimental effect on wetlands or watercourses" was not included in the IWB draft resolution of

approval. The IWB's exclusion of the RCC's recommendation was discussed extensively and the RCC will be following up on this issue.

Stormwater Committee – Joe Fossi has not scheduled the meeting. Ms. Peyser will obtain a copy of the MS4 State Regulations to share with the RCC.

6. CONTINUING TOPICS

- a) **Annual Meeting** – Mr. Levine has received 40 RSVPs and created a meeting outline. Food and beverage assignments were distributed.
- b) **Wooster School** – A Wooster senior would like to do trail work for a senior project. Mr. Levine will consult with Mr. Cronin about trail blazing and other opportunities that might fulfill the project requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake