



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 17, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Tim Bishop
Jim Coyle
Dan Levine
Kitsey Snow

Eric Beckenstein
Carroll Brewster
Jack Kace
Ben Oko

The following members were absent: Dave Cronin and Alan Pilch.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

a) Dogs and Leashes – A resident contacted the RCC about conflicting leash ordinances. The commission stands by its policy to require the leashing of dogs on open space parcels for both environmental and personal protection as stated in our rules. Mr. Coyle further made the point that he felt the Parks and Recreation ordinance Chapter 269 clearly covers all open space in town and prohibits dogs from running loose or roaming at large. Ms. Snow will respond to the concerned resident explaining the Commission's stance on the issue.

b) Deer Committee – Hunt Master Zandri emailed the commission asking the RCC if they would like to add parcels to the 2017-18 hunt. After discussion, the commission decided not to add new parcels to the hunt. In addition, Mr. Coyle will ask the Deer committee to increase the notification radius for the hunt, remove tree stands in Levy Park and on the golf course and send last year's statistics with the proposed 2017-18 property list prior to scheduling our meeting.

c) McKeon – Hans Williams Agreement – The 2017 Agreement has been revised to include liming, aerating and mowing the fields.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED to send the revised agreement to the First Selectman for signing.

d) Dr. Oko mentioned that the trees and bushes are available for pick up at Highstead. These trees are being supplied through a grant from the us forest service for a stewardship program that has been ongoing for the last two years, called the Hudson to Housatonic program. Mr. Levine will ask the rangers if they are interested in planting/maintaining the plants in their assigned open space areas.

3. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

May 2 – Mr. Brewster (Old Quarry)

May 16 – Mr. Cronin (RLL Ballfield)

b) New & Continued Business

55 Old Quarry – Mr. Pilch would like to send additional comments on detention time for water quality improvement and vegetated swales to P&Z/IWB.

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

c) RLL Ballfield – Mr. Pilch's preliminary comments were discussed. A section will be added to include the proposed NRVTA trail section on the property. The RCC will walk the property on April 28, 2017 at 8:30am. P&Z/IWB will walk on April 23 2017.

d) MS4 Application – Mr. Kace will meet with the Town Engineer and members of P&Z/IWB to discuss the application. Ms. Snow will invite a DEEP representative to speak at one of our meetings about the application.

e) Bridle Trail – The RCC discussed P&Z/IWB's acceptance of the revised single-unit application as a feasible and prudent alternative to the original three-unit application. The RCC strongly disagrees with that position. Per prior statements from P&Z/IWB that they can only review a current application before them, referral to the original application was inappropriate. The RCC reiterates its position that a feasible and prudent alternative to the stormwater detention basin located in the upland review area within five feet of the wetland should have been addressed in accordance with Connecticut DEEP regulations.

These regulations on feasible and prudent alternatives are included in the summary of CTDEEP regulations prepared for Inland Wetland Agencies at http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/water_inland/wetlands/upland_review_document_june1997.pdf on page 14, item 11. The citation is CGS Chapter 440 Section 22a-41, which can be viewed at https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_440.htm.

4. CONTINUING TOPICS

- a) **Annual Meeting** – Mr. Levine has received 50 RSVPs. Members are asked to come at 6pm to help with set up.
- b) **Wooster School** – Mr. Levine is organizing a student walk at Pine Mountain on June 7th. Ms. Snow will help educate the students on invasive removal and planting near the parking area.
- c) **Ballard Park Trees** – We are waiting on the Tree Committee to select the two trees to be planted.
- d) **Summer Workers** - We have received two applications. Ms. Lake will ask H.R. to place an ad in the paper and possible web sites (e.g., Monstor.com) given the poor response to date.
- e) **Stormwater/Drainage Training** – Ms. Snow recommended asking Mr. Pilch to educate commissioners on stormwater management/practices. The suggestion will be revisited when Mr. Pilch is in attendance.
- f) **NRVTA** – The first Ridgefield trail section will be discussed at the April 19, 2017 BOS meeting and a hike of the section will be held on April 30, 2017 at 1pm. Mr. Taney will attend the RCC's May 15, 2017 meeting. Mr. Coyle and Ms. Baker will attend the BOS meeting.
- g) **Plum Island Presentation** – The presentation will take place at the library on May 22, 2017. RCC members are encouraged to attend.
- h) **Walk Books** – the commission has received a request from the BOE for purchase of 400 books to distribute to fourth graders. Ms. Lake will discuss an appropriate price with them.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake