

APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
March 21, 2016

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Tim Bishop
Carroll Brewster
Jim Coyle
Dave Cronin
Jack Kace
Kitsey Snow
Ben Oko, Alternate

The following members were absent:

Eric Beckenstein
Alan Pilch

Dan Levine, John Pinchbeck, Barbara Hartman and Steven Coury also attended. Ms. Snow chaired the meeting in Mr. Beckenstein's absence. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2016 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT - No report.

OPEN SPACE

- a) Rid Litter Day – Barbara Hartman informed the Commission about the April 9 & 10 Rid Litter Days. Ms. Hartman asked the Commission to do whatever they can to promote the event.

- b) Maple Trees on Main Street/John Pinchbeck – John Pinchbeck, Tree Warden, discussed the recent news article about the removal of 36 trees on Main Street to improve traffic through town. When John Pinchbeck receives final plans from ConnDOT for the project, he will report to the RCC and the RCC will respond.
- c) McKeon Farm – Mr. Kace, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Cronin reported on the CLCC conference. They met with Kip Kolesinskis (Consulting Conservation Scientist) and Rachel Murray (Landforgood) to discuss options for utilizing McKeon. Kip and Rachel stressed that the next step is for the RCC to develop a vision for the site. It was agreed that the McKeon committee and the RCC will continue to work on this with the hopes of having a plan in the next six weeks.
- d) Walk Book – The Walk Book committee (Ms. Baker, Mr. Coyle, Mr. Cronin) is moving ahead on the project and expects to have a draft available within 1 month. The 2016 book will be the same size as the 2006 version but will be in color. It was estimated that the previous book order was about 3500 copies. Ms. Lake will check on how many are remaining. Based on her findings, it is anticipated that 2000 copies will be ordered. Funding sources for printing need to be explored. Mr. Coyle will contact the Ridgefield Press about getting an article published indicating that we were soliciting cover photographs from the public.
- e) Open Space Maps – The new maps have been ripping due to the thickness of the paper. In order to reprint the maps on the proper paper stock, the printer is asking for \$600 to cover the costs of reprinting.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, the RCC agreed to pay for the reprinting of the maps. Payment will come out of the NRI fund.

- f) Ranger Program – Daniel Levine explained his idea to revitalize the Ranger Program. He would like to reach out to current rangers, develop posters and brochures to solicit new rangers and create a gmail account devoted to the rangers. The RCC generally approved Mr. Levine's proposals.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

Mar. 22 – Mr. Kace

Apr. 5 – Mr. Pilch

Apr. 12 – Ms. Snow

Apr. 19 – Ms. Baker

Mr. Kace discussed the draft comments on 509 Main.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, Mr. Kace's comments are approved, with minor revisions, for submission to IWB.

New & Continued Business

Meeting with P&Z/IWB – Ms. Baker reported on her recent meeting with Jack Kace and members of P&Z/IWB. It was a positive meeting that focused on clarifying procedures and the relationship between the two commissions. It was agreed that regular meetings will foster a better relationship. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2016.

157 Mountain Road – No report

Bridle Trail - Mr. Pilch's comments on the resubmitted 3 lot subdivision were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was
RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's comments to IWB on behalf of the
RCC, along with Mr. Pilch's resume.

Attendance at DEEP Inland Wetlands. Training Course. Mr Coyle explained that the new course will open in April. The course will probably cost \$75 per person. Ms. Lake will check with Town Hall as to whether the Town could reimburse us for the course and for how many attendees. We would like to have several commissioners take the course.

Proposed Zoning Amendments/Stormwater Regs – The draft amendments and regulations were distributed. The public hearing is scheduled for May 3, 2016. The RCC will work on comments to submit.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried it was
RESOLVED to add 4 Wooster Street, 20 Mopus Bridge and 4 Encampment Place to the agenda.

4 Wooster Street – Discussion tabled until next meeting.

20 Mopus Bridge - Ms. Snow and Mr. Coyle walked the area with Ms. Peyser in anticipation of a possible 2 to 1 easement swap with the owner. Mr. Cronin will look into the easement deed for any restrictions.

4 Encampment Place – Property owner Steven Coury discussed the RCC's request to plant 5 new trees in open space where his contractor had removed them. Mr. Coury believes the soil in the area to be planted is poor and not conducive to successful replanting. He would prefer to use the funds to rebuild the stone wall. In addition, he would like to remove additional trees on open space impeding the growth of an old white oak. Mr. Pinchbeck will visit the site to determine if there is an issue with soil condition or the white oak tree.

ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

New Ordinance – Mr. Kace and Mr. Coyle met with Attorney Grogins and made the final changes to the ordinance. Beth Peyser will schedule a meeting with First Selectman Marconi to discuss the final draft.

Flood & Erosion Control Board – No report.

Land Conservancy Accreditation - Ms. Snow will write a letter of support on behalf of the RCC.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake