

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**  
**Flood and Erosion Control Board**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713  
April 18, 2016

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following member was absent:

Jack Kace

John Keegan and Hans Williams were also in attendance.

Ms. Snow chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 6, 2016 Special Meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was  
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 6, 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) McKeon Farm

**Apple trees** – 6 apple trees of 3 different varieties, were planted in the orchard. Tree pruning is recommended for the older trees.  
**Whitney Freeman** – The owner's proposal to bring 14 sheep, 2 llamas and 3 goats to the farm was discussed. She would like to use a 5 acre plot. Ms. Snow will contact neighboring land owner, John Katz, about using his well water for the sheep. Ms. Freeman's proposal will be voted on at the next meeting.  
**Hans Williams** – Mr. Williams annual license agreement was reviewed. He would like to bring 4 steer in late April and 55

turkeys in July. He supported Ms. Freeman's proposal for sheep and goats assuming the water situation is approved by Mr. Katz. Mr. Williams agreed to mow the strip of land outside the fence on Lauzun Lane, Ridgebury Road and Old Stagecoach Road.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was  
RESOLVED to accept Mr. Williams proposal and send the license agreement to Mr. Marconi for signing.

- b) Walk Book – Mr. Coyle discussed the working version of the updated Walk Book. Ms. Baker will edit text. Mr. Coyle asked that the recent Press article about the revised Walk Book be placed on the RCC website under a "What's New" section on the front page. Mr. Levine will develop a brochure to promote the photo contest for the front of the book.

Mr. Coyle asked that information on McKeon Farm, the New Ordinance and the Rangers also be posted under the "What's New" section on the RCC website.

- c) Whitlock Road – Mr. Pinchbeck had the downed tree removed. Ms. Snow will ask Mr. Pinchbeck about other potentially dangerous trees and if further action is needed.
- d) 127 Peaceable Ridge – The tree cutting was done on private land near open space. Beth Peyser will develop a letter to send to local tree companies recommending they request a property map before beginning work to ensure cutting is done within property boundaries.
- e) RHS Interns – 3 high school interns are scheduled to work 5/9 – 6/10, 5 days a week for 6 hours/day. Members should think about projects that the interns could help with.
- f) Rangers – Mr. Levine contacted rangers from the old list and received responses from 15 rangers. Posters recruiting new rangers will be placed on kiosks and trail heads by members of the Commission.
- 359 North Salem – Mr. Beckenstein mentioned a new violation involving tree cutting, debris, an illegal shed and filling of wetlands on open space. The incident will be discussed at the next RCC meeting.

## **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD**

### Meetings for Attendance

Apr. 19 – Ms. Baker (4 Wooster)

May 3 – Mr. Beckenstein/Mr. Bishop (Stormwater Regs/Crescent Beach)

May 10 – Mr. Brewster (509 Main)

May 17 – Mr. Coyle

May 24 – Mr. Cronin

### New & Continued Business

**4 Wooster Street** – Mr. Pilch's comments on the application were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was  
RESOLVED to approve Mr. Pilch's recommendations and submit to the Inland Wetlands Board on behalf of the RCC.

**Crescent Beach** - Mr. Keegan, property owner near the beach, voiced his concerns about the retaining wall being built without a permit by the Ridgefield Lakes Association

(RLA). An after the fact permit has been applied for by the RLA to install an L-shaped pressure-treated wood retaining wall to prevent erosion. Mr. Pilch drafted comments after walking the site Sunday, 4/17/16.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was  
RESOLVED to approve Mr. Pilch's comments and submit his  
recommendations, with minor edits, to the Inland Wetlands Board.

**Clean Fill Regulations** – Mr. Bishop discussed his draft regulations regarding changes to the Excavation, Filling & Grading section of the Towns Zoning Regulations.

**Stormwater Regulations** – Mr. Kace's revisions to the regulations were reviewed and accepted by the RCC.

### **ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

New Ordinance – The new ordinance is scheduled for a Public Hearing and vote on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Annual Meeting – There will be no recipient of the Edith Meffley award this year. Ms. Lake will send out a supply list for food and paper goods needed for the meeting. Mr. Brewster suggested having a second meeting in the Fall specifically for the Rangers. The discussion will be continued.

Flood & Erosion Control Board - Mr. Bishop will contact town engineer, Mr. Fisher, about the Shadow Lake Dam.

IWB Comprehensive Training: Funds for the training are available for 5 RCC members. The online training course may be available late April.

Schlumberger – Ms. Baker and Mr. Kace will continue to represent the RCC at the Schlumberger Citizens Committee meeting on Thursday, 4/27/16.

Weir Farm Bio Blitz – Dr. Oko asked for volunteers to help out on Saturday, 5/21/16 between 8am and 4pm. Ms. Snow will lead an Invasives Walk.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake