



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
(203) 431-2713 • [conservation@ridgefieldct.org](mailto:conservation@ridgefieldct.org)

**December 10, 2018**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:      Eric Beckenstein      Tim Bishop      Carroll Brewster      Jim Coyle  
                 Dave Cronin      Jack Kace      Daniel C. Levine      Ben Oko  
                 Alan Pilch

Absent:      Susan Baker and Kitsey Snow.

Whitney Freeman was also in attendance.  
Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting, Ms. Lake took the minutes.

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## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2018 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

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## 2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Appeal Update – Mr. Brewster reported that as of 12/10/18, \$15,719 has been collected from 133 donors. This is slightly above last year after four weeks.

FYE20 Capital & Expense Budgets – Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace will finish both budgets for submission next week.

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## 3. OPEN SPACE

### The McKeon Farm

- Henny Penny Farm License. Ms. Freeman updated the commission on 2018 farm activities and proposed adding Ridgebury Pasture 1 to her grazing area in 2019. She plans to improve the pasture with USDA grant money for seed and would also like to add six sheep.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve, and recommend to BOS, a one-year license for Henny Penny Farm that includes the 2.8-acre Ridgebury Pasture 1 parcel and six additional sheep.

- Mr. Coyle, Mr. Pilch and Dr. Kace met with a McKeon farm neighbor who was interested to learn more about the RCC's plan for the farm.
- Ms. Lake is working on getting prices for a tractor package that will include the lawn tractor, tractor cover, cart, trailer and new roof for the shed at McKeon as part of the 2019 Capital expense request.
- After successful removal of the corral, fencing and outbuilding, with the help from Phil Kearns and several fathers of local boy scouts, there is remaining debris that needs to be disposed of.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$600 for another dumpster at the McKeon farm.

Walnut Hill Proposal – The RCC discussed a proposal from a landowner to sell 9.5 acres, composed mostly of wetlands, off Walnut Hill Road.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried it was RESOLVED to contact the homeowner and let them know the RCC is not interested in purchasing the property but would be willing to accept the land as a donation.

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**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION.** The RCC entered executive session at 8pm and exited executive session at 8:20pm.

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**5. POCD** – Dr. Kace and Mr. Coyle attended a meeting with Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics to discuss the RCC's role in the 2020 POCD. Dr. Oko will work on the sustainability section with members of RACE and will send them around for comments from the Commission. The first listening session will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

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**6. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD**

a) Meetings for Attendance

Dec 12 – Kace/Levine	(Winter Club – Public Hearing)
Dec 18 – Pilch/Baker	(28 Great Hill – Public Hearing)

b) New Business

**23-1/2 Catoonah** – Mr. Pilch's comments, submitted in memo form to P&Z/IWB on 12/3, were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve and accept the comments presented to P&Z/IWB on Dec. 3, 2018 as final.

c) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

**Nov 27 & 29 – Winter Club Public Hearing** – Mr. Coyle presented the RCC's position at the Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. December 12<sup>th</sup> will be the final Public Hearing on the application.

**Dec 4 – Catoonah & 84 Governor/62 Prospect Ridge** – Mr. Pilch reported that all three applications will most likely be approved. Mr. Pilch was encouraged that RCC recommendations for the Catoonah property about using permeable walkways, native plants and possible cleaning of a ditch were accepted by P&Z/IWB.

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**7. 2019 GOALS & PROJECTS** – The commissioners were asked to review the document over the next few weeks and provide input at the next meeting.

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**8. FECB Meetings** – The Board will meet two times in 2019 instead of four.

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**9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

- Understory Study – The study is finished and will be sent to Mr. Marconi.
  - The commission will receive a 2007 Ford Ranger pickup from Highway Dept.
  - Mr. Coyle discussed the GIS system with Mr. Marconi. Al Garzi is now responsible for the system.
  - There is currently no IWB transition plan in the works. Commissioners should think about possible board members.
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**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake