



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

April 8, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

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| Present: | Susan Baker | Eric Beckenstein | Tim Bishop |
| | Carroll Brewster | Jim Coyle | Dave Cronin |
| | Jack Kace | Alan Pilch | Kitsey Snow |

Absent: Daniel C. Levine

Erik Keller, Allan Welby, Jean Linville, Ian Ferguson, and Beth Peyser were also in attendance.

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting, Ms. Lake took the minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Eagle Scout Presentation – Ian Ferguson – Ian presented his recently completed “Trail to Nowhere” that is approximately 1-1/2 miles long, combining newly blazed trails with older established bike trails. The trail also has a challenging loop that includes a rock scramble to a lookout. The commission thanked Mr. Ferguson for a job well done and signed off on the Eagle Project.

The McKeon Farm – Mr. Coyle, Mr. Cronin and Ms. Lake and three Rangers participated in a recent Saturday work session. Another work session will be scheduled to finish the barn cleanup. Ms. Snow and Ms. Freeman will be doing soil testing on Lauzun Hayfield and Ridgebury Pasture 1 next week.

McManus Tree Cutting – Ms. Peyser and Mr. Cronin walked the area of possible violation and found property boundary discrepancies in surveys and deed. Ms. Peyser will contact Town Attorney Grogins about the issue. In addition, Ms. Peyser will issue a Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) to the property owner at 103 Peaceable Ridge citing two probable violations; 1) the cutting of trees on open space and 2) felling/dumping of trees in open space.

Lake Windwing – Dr. Oko is concerned that the debris left from the hydro-ax will prevent meadow growth. Tremson has an excavator that can clean up the debris but warns that it could do more harm than good at this time of year. Ms. Lake will ask for more information from Tremson. The commissioners will walk the area on Saturday, 4/13 at 10:30.

Dumping off Lounsbury Road – Mr. Brewster reported piles of landscaping debris found in open space near the Jones Trail entrance. Ms. Peyser will send letters to nearby neighbors explaining open space rules and open space signs will be posted in an effort to curb the dumping. Ms. Lake will contact the highway dept. about removing the debris.

3. ANNUAL MEETING – Mr. Coyle, Mr. Brewster and Ms. Baker will work on the Meffley award. Mr. Coyle will work on the Boy Scout award. Commissioners agreed to the assigned supply list.

4. DEER HUNT HEARING – Information on several topics is being compiled for a document to be distributed to the Board of Selectmen and town residents. The RCC hopes to have the document completed by mid-May.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Apr 9 – Kace/Levine (193 So Salem Rd)
Apr 23 – Bishop/Brewster (865 EA Highway-PH)
May 8 – Beckenstein/Cronin
May 14 – Kace/Levine
May 28 – Pilch/Snow

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meeting

Mar 26 – P&Z accepted RCC recommendations on 60 Cedar Lane pond dredging. The revised stormwater management system at 167/173 High Ridge will be instituted.

c) New and Continued Business

193 South Salem Road – Mr. Pilch discussed his comments on the pond dredging project. He suggests clarifying the amount of dredged material, and recommends installing a double silt fence and riparian buffer to protect the river during and after the project.

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

6. MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

- Earth Day – Ms. Snow has found a supplier to deliver fifty one-gallon oak trees (various species) for \$18/each. She will distribute the trees at ACT of CT, prior to our annual meeting on May 1st.
 - Harbor Watch Report – The commission will review the report and discuss at the next meeting.
 - Sustainable CT – Tree Planting – Dr. Oko is working with the Tree Committee on the initiative.
 - Water Conservation – Ms. Snow suggested the commission support a change in the town's emergency ordinance to include private wells, and also to increase the amount of the fine for violators. Ms. Snow will collect more information.
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7. ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES – Three candidates were in attendance. The RCC plans to interview the candidates at the May 8th meeting.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake