



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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May 8, 2019

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

Present: Susan Baker Eric Beckenstein Carroll Brewster
 Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Daniel C. Levine
 Alan Pilch

Absent: Kitsey Snow Tim Bishop Jack Kace (at BOS meeting)

Erik Keller, Lukas Dapkus, Malcolm McGrath, Bruce Ritter, and Brooke Clarke were also in attendance.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 22, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Eagle Scout Presentation – Lukas Dapkus presented the finished bridge at Aldrich Park. The commission approved the project and commended Lukas for his work.

The McKeon Farm

- Mr. Cronin announced that the tractor had arrived.
 - Another cleanup day will need to be scheduled, weather permitting.
 - Four of the apple trees died over the winter. Mr. Brewster will research pricing for new trees.
- UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission approve up to \$200 from the tree fund to replace the trees.

Lake Windwing – Before deciding on remediation measures, it was decided to first see what kind of plant growth comes back. Mr. Coyle will continue to be in touch with Parks and Recreation on this issue.

McManus Tree Cutting –

Bruce Ritter, the property owner, accepted responsibility for the 5 trees cut down on open space and wants to make restitution.

He presented a survey of his property, which the commission will accept. Mr. Cronin mentioned that we have a map of the open space that has a discrepancy with their map.

Mr. Ritter explained that he did not ask his tree contractor to cut trees that far down on his property.

Mr. Levine commented that he thought some trees were also topped. Mr. Ritter didn't think that had happened, but will check.

Ms. Clarke, landscape architect, presented a mitigation plan of natural plantings. The plan did not include any replacement of trees. Mr. Pilch asked why that would be the case. Ms. Clarke indicated that the mitigation plan could include trees, but that replacement of understory was sound in terms of forest management.

Mr. Cronin asked if there were plans to remove the tree debris from the open space. Ms. Clarke responded that some of the debris possibly should be left as animal habitat, but that they would remove debris as directed by the commission.

A site walk was scheduled for Sunday, May 19th, at 10AM, now that the property boundaries have been marked.

Mr. Coyle remarked that Ms. Peyser will be giving the commission a report on the value of trees that have been lost, and said that the current mitigation plan did not seem to be sufficient.

Wooster Work Day – Mr. Levine has been contacted regarding a possible work day on June 5. Mr. Cronin did not think that a project close to the school would be available, but he will check with Ms. Snow before Mr. Levine gets back to the school.

Summer Workers – Malcolm McGrath came to be introduced to the commission as one of the summer workers. Mr. Cronin noted that the commission needs to either have its new truck delivered by mid-June, or it would be necessary to rent one in the meantime.

3. RCC ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER INTERVIEWS – Erik Keller, Jean Linville

Ms. Linville could not attend, and it was decided to move the interviews to the next meeting as several commissioners were also absent.

4. AQUIFER PROTECTION AGENCY (APA)

Mr. Kace was at the BOS meeting at the same time as our meeting. He will report back on the status of this issue.

5. DEER HUNT HEARING

Mr. Coyle reported that the document requested by the BOS would be ready by May 15. He requested that the commission vote on whether the recommendation by the commission at the end of the document should be kept.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried (6 yes, 1 abstention), it was RESOLVED that the recommendation be kept in the document.

6. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

May 14 – Kace/Baker

May 28 – Bishop/Snow

Jun 4 – Beckenstein/Levine

Jun 11 – Bishop/Brewster

Jun 25 – Cronin/Kace

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

April 23 – Pilch/Brewster (865 EA Hwy)

Mr. Pilch reported that although some RCC recommendations were accepted and put into the draft resolution of approval, some (in particular, the suggestion to move the parking lot to the other side of the property and more plantings along the Norwalk River) were not included.

c) New and Continued Business

22 South Street (WPCA Upgrade)

Mr. Pilch was on the site walk and made suggestions regarding access to the property. He will try to attend the public hearing (was not sure of the schedule).

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- a. Natural Resource Inventory: Dr. Oko mentioned that we have no more print versions of the document, but that the commission should consider updating some of the data before reprinting. Ms. Baker will review the current version and suggest sections to update. In the meantime, the document is available on the commission's website and also at the library.
- b. Mr. Levine's donation of food and venue for the Annual Meeting was recognized.
- c. Ms. Snow has asked if we can buy 10 more oak trees for people who were not able to get one at the Annual Meeting.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED (unanimously) to buy 10 more trees at \$20 per tree, using the tree fund.

- d. Mr. Coyle will remind Mr. Bishop about his Ridgefield Press article on the Great Swamp.
- e. Budget. Mr. Coyle has removed liming at McKeon farm from the budget. The commission might be slightly over budget by the end of the fiscal year.
- f. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Cronin will meet with Mr. Handsby about creating a trail on the Schlumberger property as originally planned as part of the Coach Homes development.

8. ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.