



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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August 19, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Eric Beckenstein Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Jack Kace
 Erik Keller Daniel C. Levine Alan Pilch Allan Welby

Absent: Susan Baker, Carroll Brewster, and Kitsey Snow

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 29, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of July 29, 2019 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION- LAND ACQUISITION

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Pilch) and carried, it was agreed to enter Executive Session at 7:31pm. The commission exited at 7:38pm.

3. OPEN SPACE

103 Peaceable Hill – The homeowner presented a revised remediation value that reduced the violation appraisal charges to \$8322.66 from the RCC total of \$47,793. There was insufficient documentation provided to support the reduction. The homeowner also proposed planting ½ to 1-inch diameter trees as opposed to the 2 to 2.5 inch-trees requested by the commission. After a meeting with Mr. Pinchbeck to discuss the offer, the RCC, through Town Attorney Copp, notified the homeowner that the town will continue to seek the original violation appraisal value and that the ½ to 1-inch trees are not acceptable. The homeowner was asked to respond by the end of August.

Schlumberger Trail – The RCC, town attorney, and President of the Prospect Woods Condo Association plan to meet on October 2nd at 10am to discuss possible trailhead locations.

Casey Lane Erosion – Mr. Pilch recommends installing a check dam to reduce trail erosion. The RCC will re-evaluate the site next spring.

Easement Wording – Mr. Beckenstein is compiling samples and information on conservation easements in an effort to streamline future easement documents. He will contact the Town Attorney for additional guidance.

McKeon Farm

- The summer workers will finish the end of this week. Ms. Lake is getting quotes for fall/spring maintenance.
- Mr. Keller will get material estimates for the barn door/wall enclosure to be installed sometime in October/November.

- Water line – Ms. Lake received three quotes to install the water line. She will contact Aquamaster to install the water line for approximately \$950 the week of September 9th.
- Commissioners Coyle, Cronin, and Snow will meet with Whitney Freeman to discuss maintenance issues at the farm.

UPON motion duly made (Welby) and seconded (Cronin), it was RESOLVED to spend up to \$1,000 to install the water line from the well to the garden area at McKeon.

- Rewilding – Mr. Keller suggested offering native plugs at the next RCC Annual Meeting to inspire and educate homeowners on natural alternatives to manicured lawns. He will contact Ms. Snow about possible collaboration with the Garden Club.

Fundraising

Options for future fundraising were discussed including adding businesses to the residential list being used for the fall annual appeal and soliciting specific support from the larger businesses in town. Ms. Lake will contact the Chamber of Commerce for their mailing list.

4. FY2020 Budget – Mr. Coyle asked the commissioners to think about ideas for the possible surplus this year.

5. APA – The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday night, August 21, and Mr. Kace plans to address the Board. Available commissioners are asked to attend.

6. STORMWATER REGULATIONS – Mr. Pilch explained sections of the new regulations to be discussed in more detail at an upcoming P&Z meeting in September or October.

7. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep 3 – Levine/Pilch

Sep 10 – Snow/Welby (800 EA Hwy – PH cont'd)

Sep 24 – Baker/Beckenstein (APA Meeting/St. Stephens Parking lot)

b) Report on Meetings

Jul 30 – Mr. Keller previously sent around a detailed report. Mr. Keller and Mr. Pilch will draft additional comments on the two construction phases proposed at 800 Ethan Allen Highway.

c) New & Continued Business – 351 Main Street. Mr. Pilch will work with Ms. Snow on comments regarding the new parking lot and the impact on nearby wetlands.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- The RCC will have one full and one alternate commissioner opening once the new IWB is elected. Mr. Coyle asks the commissioners to begin thinking about possible candidates.
- The Deer Committee will attend the Sept. 9th RCC meeting to present the group of 15 locations to be included in future deer hunts as well as the five specific parcels to be hunted during the 2019-20 season.
- The Dimos/Okon garden at their home on Barlow Mountain Road is now part of the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Beckenstein) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake