



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission

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

December 9, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Eric Beckenstein Carroll Brewster Jim Coyle Dave Cronin
 Jack Kace Erik Keller Daniel C. Levine Kitsey Snow

Absent: Allan Welby

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

Alice Leaderman, Jean Linville and Matt Sharp were also in attendance.

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Beckenstein), and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to add Election of Officers to the agenda.

Motion was made (Keller), seconded (Snow) and unanimously approved to elect Mr. Coyle RCC Chairman.
Motion was made (Cronin), seconded (Snow) and unanimously approved to elect Mr. Kace RCC Vice Chairman.
Motion was made (Keller), seconded (Snow) and unanimously approved to elect Mr. Brewster RCC Treasurer.
Motion was made (Coyle), seconded (Snow) and unanimously approved to elect Mr. Kace RCC Asst. Treasurer.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2019 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Appeal – \$12,002 has been received from 115 donors with an average donation of \$104.37.

2. OPEN SPACE

Whitney Freeman – Lease Update – Postponed to next meeting

Garden of Ideas Proposal – Based on the wording in the deed, the RCC will not pursue the land swap. Mr. Cronin and Ms. Snow will walk the site to assess conservation value for possible alternatives to the swap.

Schlumberger Trail – The town attorney and Prospect Woods board continue to discuss liability and maintenance issues. The trail is in, ready for blazing and in need of a name.

103 Peaceable - The independent arborist assessment is in. The tree replacement assessment was \$32,660, with the insurance company offering to pay 75% or \$24,495. Mr. Coyle will speak with the town attorney on next steps.

3. FY20201 EXPENSE BUDGET – Mr. Coyle will increase next year’s budget to include a new brush hog and a part-time maintenance worker.

4. EMAIL PROCEDURES – Public agendas and minutes will be sent to past commissioners. Mr. Coyle reminded the commission that discussions on issues are to take place only during public meetings and never in email. He will contact the FOIA representative about coming to one of the RCC’s upcoming meetings for additional education on FOIA requirements.

5. GOALS & PROJECTS – Mr. Coyle asked the commission to think about what the commission’s focus should be going forward now that the Inland Wetlands Board is established. This will be discussed further at a meeting in January or February.

6. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

- a) Meetings for Attendance
 - Dec 10 – Cronin /Snow?
 - Dec 17 – Kace
 - Jan 7 – Keller
 - Jan 14 – Levine
 - Jan 28 - Snow
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7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to enter Executive Session at 8:45pm. Motion was made to exit executive session (Brewster), seconded (Cronin) at 9:20pm.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Levine) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of Ms. Snow to commissioner, and the appointments of Ms. Linville and Mr. Sharp to alternate commissioners.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms Snow spoke about a collaboration with RACE that would involve planting 50 seedlings in a section of open space. More details will be provided in spring.

Ms. Snow mentioned a draft regional POCD being prepared by Westcog. She will forward the link to the commission for comments.

8) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – None

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake