



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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January 22, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:	Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
	Erik Keller	Daniel C. Levine	Jean Linville	Matt Sharp
	Kitsey Snow	Allan Welby		

Absent: Erik Beckenstein

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

Pat Sesto and Ben Oko were also in attendance.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace), and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to add Lake Property to the Open Space section of the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Brewster reported \$18,347 has been received thus far from 172 donors with an average donation of \$106.67.

3. FUTURE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES – Pat Sesto and Ben Oko joined the commission to assist in the development of goals and direction of the RCC in the upcoming years. Several areas were discussed.

- P&Z/IWB Meetings – The RCC will have single representatives attend both meetings and will continue to advise IWB on the larger applications involving public hearings.
- The RCC will look to advance legislative/regulatory goals regarding, for example; steep slopes, tree cutting and increasing percentage of open space set aside in subdivisions and PRDS.
- Outreach & education – The RCC will offer three or four hikes per year at various RCC trail locations. In addition, the commission needs to interact more with other town organizations, like RACE & Woodcock Nature Center.
- The commission will begin planning the NRI update.

- SUSTAINABLE CT – the commission will look into four possible “actions” to take on. The four areas include:

- 2.4 Develop an Open Space Plan - (We are in the process of doing this)
- 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory (We have it, looking to update)
- 2.9 Manage Woodlands and Forests (Dan has offered to spearhead this one)
- 2.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management (A natural for Kitsey)

This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

- Open Space goal of 30% - The RCC will continue to work towards the goal and look at more aggressive and proactive measures to achieve the goal, including financial and outreach activities. Mr. Keller offered to lead this effort.
- The RCC budget will include using P&R employees for maintenance work not covered by summer workers. Ms. Snow will look into West Conn student to direct the summer workers.
- A needs assessment will be done for a number of the open space areas.

4. OPEN SPACE

Garden of Ideas – Mr. Coyle is currently discussing the purchase of the one-acre parcel abutting conservation land. The commission will continue the discussion at the next meeting in Executive Session.

Ridgefield Thrift Shop Grant – Mr. Coyle's first pass at the application was discussed. He and Mr. Welby will finalize the application and distribute to the commission for final comments. The application is due next Friday, January 31.

Lake Property – The property owners have offered to sell the commission 13.82 acres that would connect Hemlock Hills to a separate two-acre land locked parcel. The commission will walk the site Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 2pm, weather permitting. Rain date will be Thursday, February 6th at 2pm. It will be discussed at the next meeting in Executive Session.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

a) P&Z

Jan 28 – Beckenstein
Feb 4 – Linville
Feb 11 – Sharp
Feb 25 – Levine

b) IWB

Jan 23 – Beckenstein
Feb 13 – Brewster
Feb 27 – Cronin

6) EXTRA CURRICULARS –

The Devil We Know – RCC co-sponsoring the documentary on PFAs water contamination. Tuesday, Feb 11, 6-8:30pm at the Ridgefield Library.

Earth Day – April 22, 2020 – The commission will think about possible activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

7) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- Ms. Linville and Mr. Levine will reach out to the community for assistance in the development of an RCC logo.
- Ms. Freeman has asked to amend the McKeon Farm License Agreement to include a livestock guardian dog after two of her llamas succumbed to worm disease. The RCC approved the change and Mr. Coyle will send the revised agreement to Mr. Marconi.
- 103 Peaceable – The owner and insurance company for the tree company have made an offer to resolve the violation.

UPON motion made (Cronin) and seconded (Welby), it was RESOLVED, with one nay (Snow) to accept a proposed settlement, with the stipulation that clean-up of the site will be supervised by Commissioner Keller in the spring of 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake