



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
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April 6, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Eric Beckenstein Kitsey Snow

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Cronin), and carried, with one abstention (Kace), it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Turner Hill 8-30g Update – Dr. Klemens completed his evaluation of the potential impact on wetlands/wildlife near the proposed housing development on Turner Road. In his professional judgment, Mr. Klemens felt the IWB would be ill advised to pursue jurisdiction over the application. The report will be discussed at the April 16th IWB meeting (via teleconference). Ms. Lake will forward Mr. Klemens' report to the commission.

103 Peaceable Closure – The violation payment has been received and is paid in full. Mr. Keller oversaw the clean-up and reported trail remediation to be complete. Mr. Coyle will ask Ms. Peyser to send a letter stating the matter has been resolved to the RCC's satisfaction.

Burgess Walker – Mr. Walker emailed the commission to inform the group on his progress with the birdhouses in Richardson Park. Mr. Walker also mentioned that he is planning to move from the area and asked for volunteer(s) to continue his work in the park. Mr. Welby will contact Mr. Walker and let him know that he and Mr. Sharp will take over care of the birdhouses.

McKeon Farm

Apple tree planting - Mr. Cronin suggested replacing three dead apple trees with three new ones and adding a fourth in another location in the orchard. He also recommended planting the two remaining trees near the entrance to the garden area. Ms. Lake will see if P&R is available to help with planting.

Bluebird houses – Mr. Welby spoke to Whitney Freeman about her concerns with the newly installed bluebird houses. They decided to move four house locations to make mowing easier and to avoid the possibility of sheep knocking over the houses.

Mowing/Haying – Mr. Welby would like to entice nearby Bobolinks to nest in the Lauzun field which would require altering the haying schedule. Based on CT Audubon suggestions, he asked that the field not be cut during the nesting season which runs from April 15 to August 1st. The RCC agreed to wait to hay the field until after August 1st and also to have P&R mow down the entire field sometime in October. Ms. Lake will contact the hayer about moving the date to August and P&R about mowing the field in October.

3. DEEP OSWA GRANT APPLICATION – Mr. Coyle has begun working on the application and discussed each section the commissioners are assigned to work on. Drafts should be submitted to Mr. Coyle by May 1st. In addition, Mr. Coyle mentioned he received two examples of successful past applications that were completed with the help of a consultant named Shelly Harms. He feels her expertise would be very valuable to the commission on the application.

UPON motion made (Kace), seconded (Brewster) and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED** to retain Ms. Harms, for a fee of \$3000, to assist in the preparation of the DEEP OSWA Grant Application.

4. MCKEON POLLINATOR PATHWAY, TERRACORPS GRANT – Discussion postponed until Ms. Snow is available.

5. STEEP SLOPE ORDINANCE – Dr. Kace discussed his findings on steep slope ordinances/regulations found throughout the country. He feels there is enough evidence to continue looking into the matter and will forward his findings thus far to the commission.

6. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

- a) P&Z - Meetings canceled through the end of April.
 - b) IWB – Apr 16 (via teleconference) – Snow.
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7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- Mr. Coyle asked the commissioners to submit their bio's to Mr. Keller as soon as possible.
 - The RCC will schedule a walk at McKeon in the near future.
 - Kudos to Mr. Levine for his excellent video productions promoting the commission and social distancing.
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ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Brewster) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

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These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.