

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
January 8, 2007

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on January 8, 2007 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Doug Barile
Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Patricia Sesto
Carol Stoddard
Beth Yanity

Dr. Oko chaired the meeting. Nancy McDaniel was present to take minutes. Lisa Schraml was present to observe the proceedings.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2006 be and hereby are approved and ordered filed in the minute book of the Commission and the Town Hall minute book.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Brewster reported the following bill: Ridgefield Supply - \$10.65.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, that the aforementioned invoice be and hereby is approved for payment as soon as practicable.

OPEN SPACE

Shadow Lake Beavers – Mr. Brewster reported that he had met with Skip Hilliker of the Humane Society. Having lowered the water level in the lake over several days, Mr. Hilliker proceeded to install a flexible pipe over the dam. It seems to be successful in keeping the water level low. The DEP will come to inspect the site and will request that debris on site and trees on the dam be removed. Members agreed to inspect the site regularly.

John Soluri Open Space – A resident reported heavy equipment on site. Employees of a contractor had been removing stones from a wall. The commission sent a letter to the contractor requiring him to cease the activity. Aimee Pardee reported that he would restore the wall. Mr. Cronin and Mr. Brewster will go to the site with Ms. Pardee, after which she will instruct the contractor on what remediation will be required.

West Mountain/McManus Open Space – A citizen reported that a homeowner had removed numerous trees, some perhaps on open space. After a site visit, Dr. Oko told the owner to get a survey to establish what trees could be felled. The owner has stopped the tree removal.

Press article – Dr. Oko suggested an article in the Press about beavers, stone stealers and tree cutting to show what the commission does and to alert people to report activities that are not permitted.

Rangefinder – Mr. Cronin asked for authorization to purchase a rangefinder in the \$150-\$200 price range to use in the field to assess locations of violations. Members agreed to the purchase.

SHARING SESSIONS

December 19 – No report

January 2 – Report distributed and discussed.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

January 9 – Ms. Baker

January 16 – Ms. Yanity

January 23 – Ms. Stoddard

February 6 – Mr. Brewster

NEW BUSINESS

Mamasco Lake Setback – Property owners have requested an increase in the review lines from 75 ft. to 100 ft. Lake Mamasco will be considered apart from the other lakes in town. The commission will submit a letter of support.

340 Barrack Hill Road – The plan is to remove a pipe from a culvert and restore the property to its original state. No comment.

217 Danbury Road – Four property owners opposite Fox Hill condominiums have requested a zone change to permit age-restricted housing with no town sewer service. Members discussed whether or not the density of the plan should dictate sewer service instead of a septic system.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED that, due to the threat posed to the adjacent wetlands by increased density, the application for a zone change be denied.

Ms. Sesto will write the commission's letter.

Dogwood Drive – Lot 33 – The owners wish to lower the profile of the approved accessway and change the underdrain design. No comment.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS

OTHER BUSINESS

Easement Letters – The letter written by Ms. Stoddard explaining the tax advantages of conservation easements will be sent to owners of large parcels. Members will write personal notes on the letters of individuals whom they know.

Donor Recognition– Members discussed whether or not a list of donors to the Open Space Fund should be published in the Press. They decided to announce the plan in next year's appeal letter and give people the option of remaining anonymous.

Turner Hill – The Turner Hill Committee will meet with designated Turner Hill residents on February 23 to hear their proposed solution to the open space problem.

Condolence Letter – Mr. Brewster will write a letter of sympathy to Edith Meffley, whose husband recently died.

Hazardous Waste Day – It is too late to obtain funding for a Ridgefield hazardous waste day this year, but members considered sponsoring one in 2008. A \$25,000 budget would be needed.

McKeon Orchard – Mr. Orlan reported that he has located a person who could prune the apple orchard. He will obtain an estimate and also investigate getting the fence repaired.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners met in executive session starting at 9:18 p.m. and ended the session at 9:23 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel