

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission  
Flood and Erosion Control Board**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713  
October 6, 2008

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, October 6, 2008 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker  
Carroll Brewster  
Dave Cronin  
Ben Oko  
Kitsey Snow  
Carol Stoddard  
Beth Yanity

Dr. Oko chaired the meeting. Nancy McDaniel was present to take minutes.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 22, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2008 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 that no bills had been paid.

### **OPEN SPACE**

#### **Maintenance/Posting/Projects**

Open Space Projects – A Ranger sprayed the hornets' nest on Lounsbury Lane. A dead deer was reported on the trail at McKeon Farm. Removal of a tree on open space near Charter Oak Court will be partially funded by the commission.

Cows at McKeon Farm – A person wants to put two or three cows on the open space at McKeon Farm. Discussion followed about whether or not the return of the cows is a good idea. Fencing that had been removed would have to be replaced. Mr. Brewster will confer with Mr. Orlan about oversight and other details.

Mowing at McKeon Farm – Ms. Snow reported that the job could be done for \$80 per mowing. She will speak with Mr. Orlan about it.

Mowing at Lake Windwing – The area was mowed, but there are patches of autumn olive. John Pinchbeck, Mr. Cronin and Dr. Oko will inspect the site.

Turner Hill – Aimee Pardee and Ms. Sesto assessed all the properties. The Board of Selectmen sent a letter to all owners requiring compliance with open space regulations. Very few responses have come in. Ms. Pardee and Ms. Sesto will do a re-inspection in the upcoming weeks. The results will be presented to the Board of Selectmen with the commission's recommendation that violators be told that failure to correct will result in their being fined. Section 4-74 of the Ridgefield code gives the commission the right to fine under the same provision, Section 8-12, in the Parks and Recreation section. Fines of \$100 per day of the violation are permitted.

## **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD**

Meetings for Attendance

October 7 – Ms. Yanity

October 14 – Ms. Stoddard

October 21 – Mr. Orlan

Wednesday, November 5 – Ms. Snow

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Wilton Road East – Lot 39 – A house is proposed near wetlands. Is there a prudent and feasible alternative? Members will walk the property on Friday, October 10.

Proposed Subdivision Amendment – Present regulations permit money in lieu of open space for subdivisions of three lots or less. The proposed subdivision at 213 High Ridge Avenue has six lots.

It has been proposed by Betty Brosius, town planner, that the three-lot requirement be eliminated and the fee increased from 6% to possibly 10% of appraised value. Her proposal will be reviewed by the Conservation Commission and then presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## **OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS**

Boy Scout Property – The matter is moving toward summary judgment.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Natural Resource Inventory – The presentation is scheduled for October 30 at 7:00 at the Rec Center. Ms. Baker has written an invitation and will circulate it among the members for approval. Ms. Snow compiled a list of interested groups to be invited.

Cell Phone Tower – There is no cell phone reception at the high school. A tower is proposed at the top of the open space on Ledges Road. The commission suggested that the Town obtain a legal opinion about the possibility of putting a tower on open space. This is a prudent first step because it would doubtless be raised by abutting homeowners. If it were permissible, the commission would then walk the property to see if it was feasible to erect a tower without degrading the open space. Concerns about the heights and type of tower were also raised.

## **WALKS**

Friday, October 10 - Starting at the Annex parking lot at 8:30 a.m.  
Wilton Road East – Lot 39

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Members went into executive session at 8:50 and closed the session at 9:00.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel