

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
November 9, 2009

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, November 9, 2009 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Alan Pilch
Patricia Sesto
Kitsey Snow
Beth Yanity

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2009 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 – Ms. Snow described a resident's concern that the large stand of dead hemlock trees at Hemlock Hills presents a fire hazard. Since the commission is not equipped to deal with fire threats, the fire marshal will be apprised of the situation.

Mr. Brewster said that Dave Buccitti of the Highway Department would decrease the water level at Marjoy Pond by slowly taking out the beaver dam on the spillway. If this effort is not successful, it may be necessary to install a beaver deceiver.

Deer Committee Report – Ms. Snow distributed copies of her revised hunt procedure guidelines, which were reviewed. She will re-edit for final approval.

Forest Watershed Inventory – Dr. Oko reported on an offer by a New York watershed group to do a stewardship study of forested parcels exceeding 10 acres. Mr. Cronin has been creating a list of such parcels, both public and private, that qualify. The sponsor is willing to come to a commission meeting to describe the process and answer questions.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

November 10 – Mr. Brewster

November 17 – Mr. Orlan

December 1 – Mr. Pilch

December 8 – Ms. Snow

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Natural Resources Inventory - Michael Klemens of the Cary Institute described how an inventory would benefit Ridgefield. His firm could do a lot of the legwork, locate data and write the report. Volunteers would be needed to gather additional data. He promised to bring the best science to the project and could produce an inventory in one year. He commented that the environment is the foundation of the entire community. Everything else builds on it, so a good inventory is necessary to influence policy. He stated that he needs a commitment by mid-December in order to do the job.

MEMBER QUESTIONS:

- 1) Have you done an inventory before? No, but he has done biodiversity projects.
- 2) How is the fieldwork organized? He created an analysis protocol for looking at the land.
- 3) How do you tie the inventory into the Plan of Conservation and Development, which will be finished before the inventory? Reference points can be inserted into the PoCD to refer to the inventory.
- 4) How many volunteers are needed? RCC must recruit volunteers. Fifteen-20 committed volunteers are more useful than a large number of undirected volunteers.
- 5) What part of the project is expendable if funding is limited? The field work and inventory are most important. Public outreach and workshops are not critical.

Members acknowledged that fundraising is a challenge. A fundraising event is contemplated. A steering committee would be essential. Other organizations will be approached to participate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commission met in executive session starting at 9:22 and ending at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel