

APPROVED MINUTES

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

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

The following members were present:

Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Alan Pilch
Patricia Sesto
Kitsey Snow

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

MINUTES

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

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of January 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

Turner Hill – Ms. Sesto reported that she and Aimee Pardee had gone to the neighborhood that day to follow up on properties in violation. She said that some progress has been made by owners who have moved equipment.

SHARING SESSIONS – None

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

- February 10 – No coverage
- February 17 – Mr. Orlan & Mr. Pilch
- March 3 – Ms. Snow
- March 10 – Mr. Cronin

NEW BUSINESS

Nonconforming Lots – Creating a blanket policy on non-conforming lots is under consideration. Because lots have individual issues, the commission will recommend that the present regulation be retained and lots reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Arnolds Way – The commission chose not to comment.

Old Stagecoach Road – Mr. Pilch illustrated on a map the points he made in a memo on the application. A first cut will be made in order to move the 18th century portion of the “McKeon farmhouse” to a new location. Mr. Pilch questioned the location of leeching fields and septic tank, which would be located in a wetlands setback area. A detention basin is to be set in hardpan. He suggested using silt fencing instead of hay bales to prevent erosion. The proposed lot boundary would lie in the middle of a footbridge. No driveway appears on the plan. Ms. Sesto will review Mr. Pilch’s comments.

Members agreed to walk the property at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 13.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS

The Boy Scouts have filed a summary judgment against the town. The town’s lawyer will draft a response. The hearing will take place in the next few weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nomination of Tree Committee Members – Three members of the committee have expressed interest in continuing their service for another term.

On a motion by Ms. Sesto, seconded by Mr. Cronin and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED that the commission reappoint Priscilla Holmes, Tom Venus and Joe Eltz to the Tree Commission for a term of three years.

Annual Ranger Meeting – Depending on the availability of the speaker, the meeting will be scheduled during the last week in March or the first week in April. Organizing an environmental study for the Plan of Conservation and Development and how to stage a bioblitz were considered for the program.

Arbor Day – Dr. Oko read an invitation to reserve a booth at the Arbor Day celebration on April 25. The consensus was that the commission did not have enough material to stock a booth effectively so would not participate.

Meffley Award – Dr. Oko suggested a candidate for the 2009 award. Members supported his suggestion.

Goose Egg Oiling – Dr. Oko asked if anyone wanted to participate in a campaign to oil goose eggs to reduce the goose population. To be effective, the effort should be community wide. Ms. Sesto will help get the word out.

Sierra Club Programs - Patrice Gillespie would like to make a presentation to the commission about the mayors' climate protection agreement and a program to reduce the carbon footprint. Members agreed that the topics were outside of the commission's purview. Dr. Oko will offer her a chance to speak but will make it clear that the commission could not play a major role in launching the projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel