

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
March 8, 2010

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 8, 2010 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
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 February 22, 2010 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2010 be and hereby are approved and ordered filed in the minute book of the Commission and the Town Hall minute book.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No bills had been paid since the last meeting.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Ms. Snow reported calls from boy scouts and girl scouts who want to do trail work. They could paint markers or pull out invasive plants. She will plan a project with Mr. Cronin.

SHARING SESSIONS

Plan of Conservation and Development – Ms. Snow attended the public information meeting along with about 25 people. She presented the changes requested by RCC and was told that the purpose of the meeting was to listen. Dr. Oko had submitted a letter about the proposed Danbury-Norwalk trail system.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

March 9 – Ms. Baker

March 16 – Mr. Cronin

March 23 – Mr. Brewster

April 6 – Ms. Snow

April 13 – Mr. Pilch

NEW BUSINESS

Second and Third Lanes – A revised application was submitted. Members agreed to walk the property on March 12 at 8:00 a.m.

39 Boulder Hill Road – A swimming pool near wetlands is proposed. The property will be walked on March 12.

Properties for Natural Resource Inventory – The second meeting for volunteers took place on February 24. It was agreed that experts would lead volunteers in collecting data on trees and shrubs, flowers and ferns, amphibia, snakes. Six sites will be identified for study.

Dr. Oko asked members to assume responsibility for a site. Their role would be to coordinate volunteer activity.

Several potential study sites were discussed: Bennetts Pond, Hemlock Hills, Pine Mountain, Lake Windwing, Florida Refuge, the rail trail, Topstone, Pierrepont Park and Limestone Reserve, Weir Farm, Titicus, Pumping Station, Great Swamp, a neighborhood study of Spring Valley Road and a large private parcel.

The sites selected were:

Bennetts Pond

Pine Mountain, Hemlock Hills and Lake Windwing – because of its size, a method must be worked out for its survey.

Pierrepont Park and Limestone Reserve

Rail Trail

The neighborhood study site and the private parcel will be explored for permission. In addition, Great Swamp will be considered if a method of assaying can be developed.

Pat Sesto and Susan Baker volunteered to captain two sites each. Beth Yanity offered to captain the Spring Valley effort if that materializes. One more volunteer is needed for the final site.

The role of the captain is to coordinate the scheduling of the experts' trips to the sites, make this schedule available to the Conservation office, who will post it for the non-expert volunteers (who need to confirm their attendance) and to make sure that the inventory data gets submitted to the Conservation office. They should also determine what supplies and support the experts need to complete their surveys. Forms, clipboards, white boards, measuring tape will be supplied.

The vernal pool training took place Saturday, March 6. Seven people attended. The pools to be studied still must be identified. There are three at Sarah Bishop, several on North Bennetts Pond and some cryptic pools along the rail trail. A tentative date of April 17 is scheduled for the field survey.

Photographs of rare and unusual species are welcome. A list of such species will be supplied using the Connecticut DEP list of species of concern. A Flicker account will be set up to receive the photos. They must contain location information.

OTHER BUSINESS

"Spring Fling" – Ranger Meeting – Dr. Klemens may be the speaker. A date before April 15 will be chosen.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel