

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
April 3, 2006

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on April 3, 2006 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Doug Barile
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
Patricia Sesto
Carol Stoddard
Beth Yanity

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 20, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 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

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ms. McDaniel reported that no bills had been received.

OPEN SPACE

Mr. Cronin reported that two high school interns are available to work on open space in May. Dr. Oko asked that other members make themselves available to help supervise the students if Mr. Cronin needs assistance.

Mr. Cronin has been in contact with an Eagle Scout candidate who is looking for a project.

Inland Wetlands Amendment – Members discussed the proposed changes to the regulations with particular focus on the definition of clear cutting. The changes will be addressed at the April 4 meeting of Planning & Zoning. There was some concern that the amendment would be voted, despite the fact that it had been changed after the public hearing. Commissioners decided not to protest.

SHARING SESSIONS

March 21 – Ms. Baker, who had represented the Commission, submitted her comments in an email message that was circulated prior to the meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

April 4 – Ms. Stoddard

April 11 – Mr. Barile

April 18 – Mr. Brewster

May 2 – Mr. Cronin

Dr. Oko asked that all observers notify him if Planning & Zoning receives new applications and schedules walks immediately because those sites will appear on the next P & Z agenda and need to be reviewed the Conservation Commission quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

345 Wilton Road West – The issue is a swimming pool with adjacent pavers to be sited in a wetland buffer. The buffer is a lawn area that was disturbed many years previously. Construction of the pool would bring mitigation, which would be an improvement when compared to the existing lawn. One member commented that mitigation should extend along the pool as well as south of the pool in a two-to-one ratio. It should be aesthetically pleasing as well as effective. Members discussed the virtues of native vs. non-native vegetation.

After discussion, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED that Ms. Sesto write the Commission's letter acknowledging the Pool's irreversible incursion into the wetland buffer (thus justifying mitigation extending double the length of the pool and including native plants not eaten by deer) and recommending placement of the pool as far to the east as the planned septic system would permit.

Wilton Road East - The Estates on the Ridge - The property comprises 152 acres featuring wetlands, a vernal pool and watercourses that feed two rivers. There will be a public hearing in May or September. Ms. Brosius has requested feedback from an environmental biologist, landscape architect and engineer.

Dr. Oko argued that the sensitivity of the site requires an expert in vernal pools. He asked for suggestions of other interested groups that might comment on the proposal.

Members will walk the property tentatively on April 28.

OTHER BUSINESS

Walk Book – Ms. Baker distributed copies of the final draft of the Walk Book for members to review. She asked them to report back to her on changes and/or typographical errors in the next two weeks. Anyone who wishes to change the cover photograph should submit an alternative image to her. Mr. Barile will write a short passage on Sturges Park to be included in the new edition.

Ranger Meeting - Plans are coming together for the refreshments prior to the business meeting. About 60 people are expected.

WALKS

April 28 - Starting at the Annex parking lot at 8:45 a.m.
345 Wilton Road West

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners met in executive session at starting at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel