

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
May 28, 2008

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Patricia Sesto
Kitsey Snow

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 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 one bill: \$14.99 – reimbursement for gas purchased for mowing equipment.

Town Budget – Dr. Oko reported that, as a result of the defeat of the town budget, two additional weeks of summer employment had been cut from the upcoming budget proposal. The \$4000 capital appropriation for bridge rebuilding passed. The new budget will be voted at a Town meeting on June 3.

DEER COMMITTEE PROPOSAL – Tom Belote and Steph Zandri presented a proposal for the fall deer hunt. The dates are: Sept. 15, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009 for bow hunting, Nov. 19 – Dec. 9 for shotguns and Dec. 10 – Dec. 23 for muzzleloaders. All abutting neighbors would be notified by letter from Town Hall. Hunting would be prohibited on weekends and school holidays.

Extensive discussion followed. There was concern about shortening the hunting period at Hemlock Hills because the five-year study would be impacted. Substituting Pine Mountain could have an effect on the Hemlock Hills tally. Because Kiah's Book abuts school property, it was removed from the approved list. Mr. Zandri will obtain the baseball schedule for Shadow Lake. Hunting will take place there after the ball season is finished.

The vote was postponed. Mr. Belote will provide a proposal for a vote.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Ms. Snow praised the two high school interns, who have made a new trail at Hemlock Hills, finished another, removed blowdowns, mowed and rebuilt two bridges. She suggested an article in the *Press* to mark the opening of the new trail.

New Hire – Ms. Snow has hired a summer employee to work alongside our returning employee.

Eagle Scout Project – Dr. Oko outlined the need for a major cleanup at the new Lakeview Drive property: removal of debris, building a trail, constructing a bench.

Publicity –

SHARING SESSIONS

May 13 and May 20 – Ms. Snow attended both sessions. Reviewing the P & Z agendas led to discussion about the problem of inadequate data on Wetland applications. The members emphasized the need for complete applications and the negative impact of passing incomplete applications.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

June 3 – Ms. Baker

June 10 – Ms. Stoddard

June 17 – Mr. Orlan

July 1 – Mr. Brewster

NEW BUSINESS – None

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS

Lakeview Drive – The proposed donation has been received by the Selectmen and will be reviewed by Planning & Zoning.

Realtor Contact – Dr. Oko noted that the Old Sib purchase grew out of contact with a realtor and suggested members talk with realtors to learn about potential additions of open space.

OTHER BUSINESS

Natural Resources Inventory – An inventory is called for in the Plan of Conservation and Development. Dr. Oko has learned that funding is available for such an inventory. The first step is to define the scope of the project.

WALKS

June 20 - Starting at the Annex parking lot at 8:30 a.m.
Trail at Toll Brothers' Laurelwood
House proposal on Katz property on Old Stagecoach Road
Opening of new trail at Hemlock Hills – Press coverage

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners met in executive session starting at 9:12 and ending at 9:32 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel