

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
June 28, 2010

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, June 28, 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 June 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 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

Mr. Brewster reported that no bills had been paid.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance
July 6 – Mr. Orlan
July 13 – Mr. Pilch
July 20 – Ms. Snow
September 7 – Ms. Yanity

Dr. Oko said that he planned to attend the P & Z meeting tomorrow at which the Plan of Conservation and Development would be discussed. Ms. Baker and Mr. Pilch might possibly be able to be present. Dr. Oko asked members to forward to him any comments they wish to make about the draft Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

312 Rippowam Road – Roger Provey, applicant, was present. Dr. Oko described the stream-dredging project. The incoming stream would be widened, and water from the stream would be piped around the pond to the outflow from the pond. The pond would be dredged.

Mr. Pilch commented that the drawing is difficult to read. Essential information is omitted, such as the limit of disturbance, the placement of dredged sediment, whether or not piping is to be buried. The water should be pumped beyond the hay bales. Hay bales are ineffective as erosion prevention; other means should be chosen.

Dr. Oko said that the amount of sediment removed and where it would go must be indicated. The sediment should not go to the wetlands. Ms. Sesto noted that widening the stream would create a shallow pond that would quickly fill with sediment. Thermal pollution would develop in the stream and then pollute the pond. Mr. Provey objected. He said that the stream would be wide only during storm events and then would shrink again. Mr. Pilch said that a settling basin excavated upstream of the pond would be preferable to widening the stream. Mr. Provey was open to that suggestion so long as he could clean up the pond.

When asked about placement of dredged material, Mr. Provey replied that there is enough upland area on the three-acre site to hold the spoils.

Ms. Sesto asked why October was listed as the completion date. Mr. Provey replied that the job would take two-three weeks and could be completed in August, but weather is always a factor.

Dr. Oko will write the commission's letter, including the comments above and stressing that a more detailed map would strengthen the application and fulfill the application guidelines.

OTHER BUSINESS

Plan of Conservation & Development – Comments for P & Z follow:

- The statement on the need to protect natural resources is too vague. Examples of how to protect must be given.
- The section on surface water should include information on the problems that occur.
- Air quality – Add suburban forests as a means of maintaining air quality.
- Add the value of easements for protection of open space. Emphasize the importance of private landowners, particularly abutters, in protecting open space.

- Positive sections: references to the Natural Resource Inventory, money in lieu of open space and support for using a consistent definition of open space in all documents.
- Problem: There is no effort to protect fragile land from development.

Natural Resource Inventory Update – Dr. Oko announced a butterfly survey on July 10. The tree surveys are half completed. The bird counts are complete. A photography lesson and picture-taking session will take place on July 17. Members are invited to participate. Highstead Arboretum wants to use the Spring Valley surveys as an example of private landowners participating in a resource survey. The Watershed Agricultural Council, a group in New York, has offered to create a forest management plan to protect the watershed in Ridgefield.

Branchville Road – An application for road building is upcoming. Members will walk the property on Friday, July 2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commission met in executive session starting at 8:30 and ending at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel