

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
July 2, 2007

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on July 2, 2007 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

Dr. Oko chaired the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2007 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 the following bills that he had authorized in advance of the close of the fiscal year: Greg Autuori - \$34.46, Ridgefield Power Equipment - \$471.30, John Pinchbeck - \$90.00, CT DEP store - \$25.95, Greg Autuori - \$180.19. Members approved all of the expenditures.

Mr. Brewster said that he would like to clarify the policy for approving expenditures and would bring a motion to the next meeting.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Mr. Cronin addressed several properties and asked for guidance on how to maintain them:

Norwalk River Environmental Study Area – This piece of state-owned land is used largely by the school system for children’s field trips. RCC employees mow the trail through the meadow in summer, but spring and fall mowing is necessary in addition.

After discussion of responsibility and the use of WHIP grants, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED that Dr. Oko speak with Paul Roche of Parks and Rec about taking over maintenance of the area and that, if accepted, Mr. Barile visit the area with Parks and Rec personnel to brief them on the extent of the work needed.

Shadow Lake – Mr. Cronin recommended leaving the area around the lake in a natural state without a trail. He asked if trees growing on the dam should be removed. Dr. Oko and Mr. Cronin will make an assessment of the area.

A road created by Parks and Rec leads to the dam. Dr. Oko will ask them to remove it.

Old Spectacle Lane – A trail between Wilton Road East and Wilton Road West is not being used and is in poor shape.

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

RESOLVED that the trail at Old Spectacle Lane be decommissioned.

Colonial Heights – Mr. Cronin described autumn olive that is spreading into the open space and its neighboring property in New York State. He said that the autumn olive could be cut back and the stumps painted, but the problem would only get worse on the New York side. Dr. Oko will contact the owner and discuss the situation with him.

Orienteering Day at Hemlock Hills – Susan DeWitt has asked permission to stage a one-day orienteering meet at Hemlock Hills-Pine Mountain on November 18. The courses would be open to the public, who will need to park at the parking lot. She would provide a certificate of insurance. Members granted permission for the event.

SHARING SESSIONS

June 19 – In regards to two properties at 8 Rippowam Road and 110 Armand Road. Dr. Oko described Aimee Pardee’s statement that ponds are not necessarily better than wetlands. Planning and Zoning will review the two applications. The need for support in enforcing the ordinance at Turner Hill was discussed. P & Z will write a letter to the selectmen emphasizing the need for their support in the matter.

RCC Standing at P & Z Meetings – Dr. Oko clarified the right of RCC members to ask to be recognized and make statements at P & Z meetings, even if they are not public hearings.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

July 3 – Ms. Stoddard

July 10 – Ms. Baker

July 17 – Mr. Brewster

July 24 – Mr. Barile

NEW BUSINESS

4 Weir Farm Lane – Ms. Sesto reviewed the plan to build an addition and swimming pool. In a letter she had drafted, she commented that both of the projects are too close to wetlands, the logistics of construction would adversely affect the wetland and no alternative plans were submitted. Members authorized the position in her letter, which will be sent to P & Z.

245 Old Branchville Road – Ms. Sesto described a small addition to be built over part of a driveway and a tennis court planned for the back of the lot. Members supported her opposition to the plan due to the detrimental effect on the wetland and buffer.

616 Bennetts Farm Road – Ms. Baker distributed her letter, which members read before discussion continued. Aquarian Water Company opposes the project. Members discussed the various problems associated with the plan.

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

RESOLVED that the letter as written be submitted to P & Z, with the condition the any changes made by Ms. Baker be circulated to the members via email and approved by them prior to submission.

Waters Edge Way – The project involves a three-acre peninsula extending into Fox Hill Lake on which a two-bedroom house, with septic system on filled land, is planned. The driveway would come within six feet of the lake. Members reviewed Town Planner Betty Brosius' letter detailing the problems with the application, particularly the concern that should the septic system fail, pollution would seep into the lake. The applicant has refused to hire an environmental consultant.

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

RESOLVED that the position taken by Betty Brosius and the requirement to engage an environment consultant be approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners met in executive session starting at 8:50 and ending at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel