

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
September 13, 2010

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, September 13, 2010 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Alan Pilch
Patricia Sesto
Kitsey Snow

Dr. Oko chaired the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 30, 2010 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 30, 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 announced that there was no treasurer's report.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OUR OPEN SPACES IN NEW YORK WATERSHED - Presentation and Discussion by David Beers, Forester

Dr. Oko described a funded New York initiative to look at watersheds that affect the city water supply. One third of Ridgefield is in the New York watershed. He explained that public or private parcels of at least 10 acres are eligible for the study. Letters about the program would go out to private land owners.

Dr. Oko introduced Mr. Beers, who is qualified to undertake the study for Ridgefield. He discussed the forest stewardship program, which starts with assembling topo maps on which

400' by 400' grids are laid out. Trees in the grid are documented along with information such as board feet of lumber, site quality, tree regeneration, disease, invasive species and physical features of the land. After the data is run, a plan is created. Recommendations are made based on the land owner's goals.

Discussion of several topics followed:

Deer management – Deer fencing or tubes to protect saplings are preferred solutions.

Application for funding – Mr. Beers recommended listing all the open space parcels on the application. New York is interested in good stewardship of the land, but will not attempt to direct what is done with it.

Invasives management – Eradication is funded, but the awarding of funds is competitive.

Elimination of autumn olive in a field – Invasives do not have to be in a forest to be funded.

Private land owners – Only those who own 10 acres or more are eligible.

Members agreed that the commission should submit an application for the forestry study. Ms. Snow and Mr. Pilch offered to write the application and would like some help with it.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Mr. Cronin reported that an Eagle Scout candidate has completed a project at Hemlock Hills.

Volunteers at Lake Windwing – Ms. Snow reported that 25 volunteers from a local church had offered to remove invasives at Lake Windwing, but that she could not be present while they were working. There was concern that at least two members should help supervise the large group. She will ask if they could choose another date.

Coyote – Dr. Oko had spoken with a trapper about removing the coyote at Weir Farm. It is an expensive process that begins with obtaining a license from the DEP. Neighbors must be informed. Ms. Sesto volunteered to oversee the procedure. Dr. Oko will apply for the permit.

Mr. Brewster said that a policy on dealing with threatening animals is needed. Mr. Cronin suggested that the guideline should be that if a coyote exhibits aggressive behavior that could lead to injury, the commission would intervene. A policy was not adopted, but will be addressed again before any action is taken.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

September 14 – Mr. Brewster

September 21 – Ms. Baker

October 5 – Mr. Cronin

October 12 – Mr. Pilch

NEW BUSINESS

Wilton Road East – The application is for a 60' by 60' house to be built within the wetland buffer 10' from a wetland. The long driveway would add a large amount of impervious surface to the property. A rain garden would be located in a boggy area where it could not function. Members were concerned that the importance of buffers was undermined by the plan. They recommended requesting elevation of the application to a plenary hearing because of the substantial impact of the plan. Dr. Oko will write the letter to P & Z.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commission met in executive session starting at 9:00 and ending at 9:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel