

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
March 7, 2011

A special meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 7, 2011 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
Alan Pilch
Kitsey Snow

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 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.

Ms. McDaniel reported results of the annual open space appeal. 187 donations totaling \$26,329 were made. There were 65 donations of \$100, suggesting that the offer of a free copy of the Walk Book for donations of that amount was a successful incentive.

PRESENTATION FROM THE TREE COMMITTEE

Joe Eltz, Tom Venus and Will Molyneux attended the meeting to present copies of the newly-published revised version of "Notable Trees of Ridgefield." Two of the trees in the 2005 edition had been lost, but four new trees were identified, so the book features 24 important trees in town. Copies will be distributed to the school libraries and to fourth-grade teachers to be used in their tree identification program. The book will be for sale in outlets around town.

Dr. Oko described the data collected in the NRI tree study and offered to send it to the Tree Committee. They were interested in receiving it. Mr. Brewster asked about butternut trees. There may be one in Richardson Park.

Mr. Molyneux listed the characteristics of notable trees as height, width, circumference or historical connection to Ridgefield. There is both state and local recognition.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Mr. Cronin commented that it was time to plan for summer employees. Ms. Snow will find out if last year's employees want to return.

Ms. Snow said that two high school interns will start work for the commission in mid-May. Projects are needed for them to work on. Two Eagle Scout projects are also under consideration.

Turner Hill – Dr. Oko and Ms. Sesto met with the first selectman. They informed him that as part of the settlement, the town would need to provide some trees to mark boundaries. The town attorney would insert language about boundaries and limits of mowing either in the deeds or on assessor's field cards. Ms. Pardee and Ms. Sesto met with representatives of the Turner Hill neighborhood to discuss the settlement.

SHARING SESSIONS

March 1 – Ms. Yanity's notes on 35 Golf Lane were distributed earlier.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

March 8 – Ms. Baker

March 15 – Mr. Cronin

March 22 – Mr. Brewster

NEW BUSINESS

NRI Draft – Dr. Oko asked for comments on the draft copy that had been distributed to members the previous week. Notes were taken on suggestions for changes to the document.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS – Executive Session

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Committee Appointments – The terms of Tom Venus and Joe Eltz had expired. The commission is responsible for voting reappointments to the Tree Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Brewster, seconded by Mr. Cronin and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED that Joe Eltz and Tom Venus be reappointed to the Tree Committee for three-year terms.

“Spring Fling” – The NRI report will be completed in April. Although the annual meeting for Rangers is usually in April, Dr. Oko suggested delaying it until May so that the NRI report could be featured in the program. Members approved the scheduling change.

Edith Meffley Award – Two individuals were suggested for consideration for the 2011 award.

Commission Member Opening – There was discussion of potential members. The position will be advertised in the Press.

New Chairman for the Conservation Commission – Dr. Oko plans to resign his chairmanship some time in 2011. An arrangement for covering the chairman’s duties is needed. Priorities in the future are maintaining open space and promoting the visibility of the commission in Ridgefield.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel