

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission  
Flood and Erosion Control Board**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713  
September 12, 2011

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, September 12, 2011 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker  
Carroll Brewster  
Dave Cronin  
Terry McManus  
Ben Oko  
Alan Pilch  
Patricia Sesto  
Kitsey Snow

Mr. Brewster chaired the meeting. George Orlan, past chairman, was present. Nancy McDaniel was present to take minutes. Bill Kelley, Harry Sewell and Julie Henderson of the Rainbow Lakes Association were present to observe. Doug Barile, a former member of the Conservation Commission, accompanied his son Jamie, who was to make an Eagle Scout presentation.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 25 and September 9, 2011 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of July 25 & September 9, 2011 be and hereby are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

**EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION** – Jamie Barile presented his plan to replace a collapsed bridge on open space. It would be located on a conservation easement and pedestrian right of way. The bridge, 24 feet long with buttresses on the stream banks, not in the stream bed, would be constructed of pressure-treated wood and concrete blocks. As measured during the recent hurricane, the height of the bridge would be above flood stage. Rocks from the stream bed would be piled up to create an approach to the bridge and a footpath would be relocated to skirt the wetlands. The cost of materials would be borne by the Rainbow Lakes Association and the Conservation Commission.

On a motion by Ms. Sesto, seconded by Mr. Cronin and voted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED that the bridge design be approved and that \$500 be appropriated for the purchase of materials.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Review of YTD Expenditures – Mr. Brewster relayed his conversation with a Dreyfus representative about the fact that no interest had been paid on the RCC account in 30 months. He will research safe options for the funds.

Copier Purchase – A request has been forwarded to the IT Department for pricing on a new copier for the office. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Brush Hog Purchase – Ms. Snow spoke of the need for a new brush hog to replace the current one at a cost of \$2500. Dr. Oko was informed that, because capital requests must be \$5000 or more, the commission should request funding in the 2012-13 budget or ask the selectmen for funds from their discretionary account.

### **OPEN SPACE**

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Mr. Cronin said that trees were damaged in Hemlock Hills and John Soluri open space. A Ranger crew will be asked to help remove the trees. Ms. Snow will ask all Rangers to walk their properties and report any tree damage.

Liming of McKeon Fields – Hans Williams tested the fields he farms and found that they need liming. He will pay for the necessary lime. The commission would have to bear the cost of liming the fields where Joe Badaracco cuts hay. Mr. Cronin will obtain estimates for the work and come to the commission for an appropriation.

Vineyard on McKeon Farm – Members agreed that the decision made in June that the land should be used only for cows and hay should stand. They did not favor the request to permit a vineyard.

### **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD**

Meetings for Attendance

September 13 – Ms. Baker

September 20 – Mr. Pilch

October 4 – Mr. Brewster

### **NEW BUSINESS**

36 Rolling Ridge Road – Mr. Pilch reviewed the application for a septic system on a sloping property. There are presently three channels of runoff across the property. A plan to build a room over the garage requires approval of a code-complaint septic system, although it may never be built. The location of the proposed system is ten feet from wetlands. The plan also includes an S-shaped drainage channel located in the woods that would replace the current three channels.

Mr. Pilch was concerned about the location of the new channel and the possibility of clogging in the pipe from the catch basin. No justification for the new channel's placement was given by the applicant. Ms. Sesto suggested recommending that the channel be built only if a new septic system is actually constructed. The work should be done during low-flow time.

Annual Open Space Appeal – Ms. Snow offered to help Ms. Yanity write this year's appeal letter.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion of Chairman Memo – Members were in agreement that Dr. Oko's memo for future chairmen was excellent. Mr. Brewster emphasized that it is important for chairmen to go to the office and address all the issues that have come up. He was concerned that background information might be lost with the frequently rotating chairmen. Dr. Oko suggested that each chair bring all issues to the commission so that members know what is going on. Mr. Brewster will give a "chairman's report" at each meeting to inform the members of the business of the commission.

At the next meeting, a schedule of the volunteer chairmen will be finalized. Dr. Oko suggested sending a notice to the Press about his retirement and the new rotation.

Ranger Meeting – Ms. Snow asked if there would be a meeting this year. The spring meeting was postponed in order to complete the NRI. A November meeting with the completed NRI as program is under consideration.

Akebia – Ms. Snow said that the flame thrower will be used on some akebia and glycozene on other patches. Results will be compared.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel