

APPROVED MINUTES

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

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

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
George Orlan
Alan Pilch
Patricia Sesto
Kitsey Snow
Beth Yanity

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

Dr. Oko distributed the resumes of two candidates for the open seat on the Planning & Zoning Commission and asked members to consider endorsing an individual. The selectmen will make the final decision.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting were reviewed.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 8, 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

There were no bills to report.

OPEN SPACE

Maintenance/Posting/Projects – Ms. Sesto reported damaged chicken wire on a bridge at a trail at Lake Pierpont. The commission will follow up on repairs.

Ms. Snow reported flooding on a property behind the Rec Center. Since it does not involve open space, Dr. Oko suggested that the owner confer with the town planner.

Ms. Snow noted that an Eagle Scout candidate has a project. She will let him know that he should arrange to present it to the commission.

Coyotes – Ms. Sesto reported progress on the coyote problem. The commission will bear ½ of the setup cost and trapping one coyote for a total of \$250; property owners will fund the remaining costs. Traps will be placed on private land and open space. She has worked with Weir Farm to post signs announcing that the trails are closed. The first selectman has been informed of the project. The plan is to eliminate three coyotes. The consensus of the members was to support this proposal.

Turner Hill – Ms. Sesto said that she and Aimee Pardee had met with the neighbors. At present, problems on 1 ¼ acres of open space remain unresolved. The neighborhood representative will propose to the neighbors with the largest yards an agreement to stop using a portion of open space that abuts their backyards. The goal is to come within ½ to ¾ of an acre of compliance. She urged the commission to consider this “close enough” to fulfill the open space requirement for the development. The selectmen will be asked to fund a row of dogwoods to mark the no-mow line. The consensus of the members was to support this outcome.

NRI Forest Study – Dr. Oko noted that the forester had checked Kiah’s Brook and Sarah Bishop. He recorded individual trees, their diameters, the health and height of trees. Dr. Oko, Ms. Snow and Mr. Cronin participated in the study. Other locations may be added for later study. The forester will continue coming to Ridgefield until all the locations have been measured. At present, 950 trees have been counted; 25% were sugar maples.

McKeon Chickens – Dr. Oko noted that the agreement stipulated the requirements for cows, but made no mention of chickens. Nonetheless, chickens were introduced during the summer and a sign was erected to advertise eggs.

Mr. Brewster favored raising chickens. Mr. Orlan said that all offers to use the McKeon land in the past had been turned down, but raising cows was acceptable only because cows had been raised there for countless years by the McKeon family.

The question was what kinds of activity should be allowed at McKeon Farm? The sense of the commission was that the terms of the agreement must not be changed unless the farmer comes to the commission to make a request. In addition, the farmer should obtain a permit from the town before erecting any signage.

Mr. Brewster agreed to work more closely with the farmer to communicate the standards of the commission.

SHARING SESSIONS

November 23 – 746-48 Danbury Road - BMW – Mr. Cronin said that P & Z adopted most of the suggestions made by the commission in the final report.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

December 14 – Ms. Snow

December 21 – Ms. Yanity

January 4 – Ms. Baker

January 11 – Mr. Brewster

OTHER BUSINESS

Edith Meffley Award Nominees – Members discussed the names of three individuals proposed for recognition in the spring of 2011.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commission met in executive session starting at 8:17 and ending at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McDaniel