

Ridgefield CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Ridgefield's Conservation Commission serves the town by devoting its efforts to the sound development, conservation, supervision and regulation of the town's natural resources.



DID YOU KNOW?

McKeon Farm's history goes back over 300 years. In the late 1600s, the farm was granted by the colony to one of Connecticut's early physicians. In 1781, French troops camped on the farm, and it's believed that the first Catholic mass ever celebrated in Ridgefield took place on this very site. In 1938, the McKeons bought the land.



THE LLAMAS AND SHEEP GRAZE

McKeon Farm is one of the many lovely properties that The Conservation Commission has the privilege of managing for Ridgefield. McKeon Farm is another Ridgefield gem that is certainly worthy of a visit.

New Signs

The Conservation Commission installed ten new signs at McKeon Farm, pointing out a variety of features such as the pollinator garden, the wet meadow and the apple orchards. Drop us a note and let us know how you like our new signage! We love hearing from you! conservation@ridgefieldct.org



In November 2021, our fantastic volunteers, including Scouts from Troop 116, helped The Conservation Commission remove invasive species from the rock walls at McKeon Farm. We appreciate our volunteers and are always looking for more! If you are interested in volunteering for The Ridgefield Conservation Commission, contact conservation@ridgefieldct.org for more information.

Fantastic Volunteers



Charlie Chrysler, Nihaar Sankaran, Rob Pattison



Charlie and Harry Lovett

What a Sight



The beautiful and majestic Bald Eagle at Lake Mamasasco.

Happy Retirement

The Ridgefield Conservation Commission honored long time commissioner David Cronin this month at The Lounsbury House. After many years of serving on the Commission, Dave is retiring to Cape Cod. It was a great send-off for a terrific human being! The Commission is grateful for Dave's years of service to the Town of Ridgefield.



Dave Cronin (front, left of center), surrounded by past and present members of The Conservation Commission

New Member Search



The Ridgefield Conservation Commission is looking for a new member:

- **Someone who cares for the environment**
- **Someone who loves the outdoors**
- **Someone who has time to get involved**

The Conservation Commission was established in 1962 for the development and conservation of natural resources in Ridgefield. It consists of nine voting members and two alternate members appointed to the Commission for a term of three years. Commissioners volunteer their time for the love of Ridgefield and its open spaces.

The Conservation Commission duties include:

- Looking after the town's open spaces including trail creation, maintenance, posting, and protection.
- Acting in an advisory capacity to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Board on the impact of development on the environment.
- Adding lands to the town's inventory of open space by acquisition and by encouraging donations.
- Enforcing the Town's Open Space Use Ordinance.

For more information call 203-431-2713 or email conservation@ridgefieldct.org.

Please submit your resume to Ms. Campbell-Gibson, Ridgefield Conservation Commission, Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield CT, 06877 or by email, no later than December 06, 2021.

Lovely Lauzun Field

This past Fall, The Conservation Commission had Lauzun Field cut and hayed as part of the regular and routine procedure to maintain this gorgeous property.



New Remington Woods Sign

The Conservation Commission installed a new handmade wooden sign at the trailhead of Remington Woods in December 2021. As you know, The Commission is charged with maintaining Ridgefield's open spaces and trails, and keeping trailheads properly marked is part of what we do!



More Parking at McKeon

Thanks to a few dedicated commissioners and some terrific volunteers, a new parking area was created beside the entrance to McKeon off Old Stagecoach Road. This new area will allow for more visitor parking.



From right to left: Commissioners Erik Keller and Dave Cronin, and volunteers Pat James, Charles Whitehurst, Mark Wilkinson. Thanks also to Commissioner Matt Sharp.

Hawkwatch

Eight Ridgefielders joined several Commissioners for The Ridgefield Conservation Commission "Hawkwatch" at Ridgefield High School. We had some spectacular moments! One of the first birds of the day was this gorgeous Peregrine Falcon! It was a wonderful day with some incredible sightings!



Calling all Citizen Scientists

Ridgefield's Natural Resources Inventory will be updated in 2022. The last time this was done was 2012, and now it is time to get back out into the field and see what there is to see! In order to make this happen, the RCC is collaborating with Woodcock Nature Center, PACE University, Western Connecticut University and Ridgefield High School to offer a series of walks and training sessions for any interested Citizen Scientists. Here are the first three opportunities for you to get involved:

Monday, January 10
7-8 pm

iNaturalist Training Webinar
Location: virtual

Saturday, January 22
9:30-11:00 am

Winter Tracking and Tree ID Walk
Location: McKeon Farm, Ridgefield.

Saturday, February 26
6:00-7:30 pm

Evening Owl Walk
Location: Woodcock Nature Center

Registration required at <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/upcomingevents>

