

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - 7:30pm
Town Hall, (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
REVISED/APPROVED Minutes

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, B. Hebert, B. Manners , M. Kozlark, S. Connelly

Special Town Meeting at 7:30pm

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgefield, Board of Selectmen will hold a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7:30pm in the Ridgefield Town Hall's Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut. Ton consider and vote upon a resolution entitled "Resolution appropriating \$2,275,000 (Approximately \$1,820,000 of which will be paid from State and Federal Grants.) for the Planning, Design, Acquisition and Construction of a New Depot Road Bridge over the Norwalk River (A Federal Local Bridge Program Project) and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,275,000 Bonds of the Town to meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.

*Board of Selectmen Meeting to follow Special Town Meeting.

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Appointments
 - a. Jean Linville - Conservation Commission
 - b. Matthew Sharp - Conservation Commission
 - c. Kitsy Snow - Move from Alt. to Full Member of the Conservation Commission
3. Assistant/Deputy Town Treasurer Candidate - Doug Sciallo
4. Lookout Drive Discussion
5. Approval of Minutes - December 11, 2019
6. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:45pm.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Appointments

The BOS interviewed 2 candidates for the Conservation Commission. Before interviewing R. Marconi spoke about State Statute CGA § 9-167a which states that all committees and commissions can't have more than a two-thirds majority of any two of the major political parties. R. Marconi explained the balance needed in any future votes. R. Marconi will verify this with Cohen & Wolf.

a. Jean Linville - Conservation Commission

Jean Linville was interviewed by the BOS for a position on the Conservation Commission. Prior to retiring Dr. Linville was a Visual Arts Instructor in New York as well as at Founders Hall in Ridgefield. Dr. Linville has always had a strong interest in the environment and has been involved in various capacities at the Hickories for the past 10 years. Most recently Dr. Linville has been working in conjunction with Highstead on the Native Wildflower Plant Project

b. Matthew Sharp - Conservation Commission

Matthew Sharp was interviewed by the BOS for a position on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Sharp has been a Ridgefield resident for the past 23 years, and has been involved with Ridgefield Boys Scout Troop 116 for the past twelve years. Mr Sharp is an avid hiker and would like to continue to give back to the community.

The BOS took this time to ask both Dr. Linville as well as Mr. Sharp some questions in regards to the Conservation Commission. In her role on the commission Dr. Linville stated that with her background as an educator she would like to look into ways the commission could better educate the public as to the open space and what resources are available. Mr. Sharp would like to focus his time on the commission on trail maintenance.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Connelly seconded the motion to appoint Jean Linville and Matthew Sharp to the Conservation Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Kitsy Snow - Move from Alt. to Full Member of the Conservation Commission

Kitsy Snow interviewed with the BOS in order to move from an Alternate to a Full Member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Snow stated that since the Conservation Commission no longer acts as an advisory to the combined P&Z and Inland/Wetlands Board, she is free to get involved with more conservation projects.

Ms. Snow and the BOS discussed the summer Rangers who historically helped clean up the trails. The logistics of their supervision, as well as liability and who is covered by the Towns Insurance in regards to any type of any accident and/or incident is the reason the Conservation Commission is no longer hiring the Summer Rangers.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion move Kitsy Snow from an Alternate to a Full Member of the Conservation Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Assistant/Deputy Town Treasurer Candidate - Doug Sciallo

Town Treasurer, Molly McGeehin was present along with candidate Doug Sciallo to interview for the Deputy Town Treasurer position. Mr. Sciallo worked at GE Capital as a VP, Debt Finance Risk Management for 32 years. He now has more free time and would like to do things to support the community.

At GE, Mr. Sciallo started in payroll and corporate accounting, then spent the last twenty 25 years on the investment banking side. M. McGeehin recommends Mr. Sciallo and believes that he will be a great back up for her when she is unavailable. B. Hebert commented that this was a volunteer position so it has no impact on the budget. M. Kozlark asked about the frequency of needed backup. Ms. McGeehin responded that it would be occasional.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to appoint Doug Sciallo as the Assistant/Deputy Town Treasurer. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Lookout Drive Discussion

Fire Chief, Jerry Myers was present to discuss the concerns of Lookout Drive residents. Because there are two roads with the same name in close proximity not connected, the residents are concerned about emergency vehicles responding to the correct address. Lookout Drive residents have submitted a petition to Chief Myers.

The BOS and Chief Myers discussed the current signage as well as other possible solutions to this situation. Adding North or South, adding Ext. to Lookout Drive, or possibly change to a completely different name were discussed. The one helpful thing is that the house numbers are numbered correctly and that they don't repeat. As a result of the discussion Chief Myers is going to send a letter to the owners of the few houses on the dead end portion of Lookout Drive to see what they would be most comfortable with going forward. He will bring his findings back to the BOS. Chief Myers was asked if there had been any confusion in the Town emergency response with any of the duplicate named streets. He could not recall any issues since being Fire Chief.

5. Approval of Minutes - December 11, 2019

The BOS discussed and made some modifications to the minutes from the December 11, 2019 BOS Meeting before approving them.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Connelly seconded the motion to approve the December 11, 2019 Minutes from the Board of Selectmen Meeting as modified. Motion carried 4-0-1, B. Manners abstained.

6. Selectman's Report

Conservation Commission Draft

R. Marconi handed out copies of the Conservation Commission draft to the BOS. The Commission is looking at the Town's open space properties. The intent is to protect the properties that the Town currently owns. The State has changed the definition of open space and the Town can no longer count any property that is no longer in its natural

state. An example, are the fairway greens at the golf not counted, but the woods can. The Town has always counted all the properties, the fairways, the greens, the ball fields, all around the schools. Now the state is allowing, only the property in its original state. The Town's open space percentage goal is 30%. M. Kozlark remarked that the modification should still keep us focused on achieving our goal of 30% regardless of state modification.

Community Garden Update

The well for the community garden at Farmingville was drilled today, and about 20 dedicated people have called and stated that they want a garden.

R. Marconi has a meeting with organizers of the Halpin Lane community garden. There is a waiting list now.

TAG Meeting

The Farmingville Road Trail along the Bypass Road through the Schlumberger property and up to the Rail Trail, has been in design for several years. The TAG reviewed the project and approved the trail with cost estimated to be \$2.8 million. We will be ready to go next year assuming that the bond package is approved by the State of Connecticut. B. Hebert asked about requirements we need to satisfy in order to qualify for the grant. The BOS agreed we need to meet all requirements.

The BOS discussed some specifications of the trail and connection to the Rail Trail portion. This will be discussed in more detail at a future date.

5G

The upcoming cellular connectivity using 5G may be a health concern. R. Marconi wants the Town to set up their own zoning regulation. He believes the Town should get out in front of this issue. 5G antennas might be placed on every other telephone pole. There is the aesthetic issue as well as a concern for the health ramifications that need to be looked into and addressed.

Historic District Commission

The Town is applying for a Battlefield Grant from the Federal Government, with respect to researching, and cataloging the remains that were found from the Revolutionary War in Town. The grant is being written by the Ridgefield Historical Society and the project will ultimately be overseen by UCONN.

Board of Education Tour

Board of Education would like to invite the BOS to a Facilities tour on the 27th of January with a snow date of the 28th, from 10:00am - Noon.

Tiger Hollow

M. Kozlark stated that she would like the BOS to work to formalize the agreement with Tiger Hollow, Inc. before going into the budget process. R. Marconi doesn't believe that an agreement could be formalized prior to the budget process since it begins in the first week of February. The BOS agrees that a formal agreement needs to be established with Tiger Hollow, Inc with regards to facilities, gifts and future maintenance.

Affordable Housing Committee

M. Kozlark reminded to the board that the Affordable Housing Committee is a nine member board that currently only has three members so it can't function as a Committee yet. B. Hebert asked for the members to come to a BOS meeting to discuss the vision and scope of the committee. The Affordable Housing Committee will be on the BOS Agenda for the January 22nd Meeting.

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:40pm. Motion carried 5-0.

The BOS returned to the public at 10:10pm, there was no vote taken during Executive Session.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Connelly seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:10pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollie M. Rapp