

**Town of Ridgefield
Monday, February 24th, 2020 at 4:30 pm
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Unapproved/Unrevised Minutes
Town Hall Large Conference Room**

**In Attendance: R Marconi, S Connelly, M Kozlark, and R Hebert.
B Manners was absent.**

Agenda

1. Conservation Commission Presentation
2. SALT Declaration

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Budget Meeting to order at 4:30pm.

1. Conservation Commission Presentation

Members of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission were present to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen concerning Ridgefield open space. Their presentation included the below:

Background:

Open Space does not mean undeveloped natural land or land with an official passive recreational use. For land to be termed "open space" it must be either preserved or protected.

- Preserved open Space: any area of land that has been acquired and is used for open space purposes. Includes DEEP'S State Parks, State Forests, and Wildlife areas, and Class I and II watershed land.
- Protected Open Space: Any are of land with restriction that would limit its use to open space. Includes lands subject to conservation restriction, deed restriction, or certain reserved rights.

Total estimated open space in Ridgefield is 5,636 acres or 25.2 percent of the Town's 225,387 acres of land. Thus, the Town 1,080 acres short of its stated 30 percent open-space goal of 6,716.

Current Map:

A current map was displayed of all the towns open spaces color coded by designations.

Breakdown in acres:

A listing was provided showing all open space in town and how many acres it holds.

History:

- a) Only about 300 acres has been added to the roster of town-owned open space in the last 20 years.
- b) Only 78 acres were donated to Land Conservancy property in the last 20 years.

Potential Future Acquisitions:

The Commission has identified 1,127 potential acres of space for open acquisition, which has dropped by 40% in the last 7-8 years. Another 1,080 acres are needed to meet the conservation commission's goal and POCD Plan of 30%

A discussion took place amongst the Board of Selectmen regarding whether Ridgefield follows a process of being reactive or proactive through annual funds.

No vote was taken.

2. SALT Declaration

The Board of Selectmen invited Al Garzi, Town Assessor into the conversation regarding the SALT Declaration. The BOS approved the declaration with an add-on to the end stating that this approval does not financially obligate the Town of Ridgefield.

S.Connelly moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion approve the SALT declaration provided by the Town. Motion carried 4-0.

R.Marconi moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting at 6:22pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by

Amy Escribano
Assistant to the First Selectman