

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 - 7:30pm
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED 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

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. "Make Music Day" Ridgefield Proclamation
3. Reappointment Requests:
 - Commission on Aging:
 - a. Kathleen Brennan
 - b. Sheila Silverman
 - Commission for Accessibility:
 - a. Donald C. Ciota
 - Parks and Recreation Commission:
 - a. Philip S. Kearns
 - b. David Michael Shofi
 - Economic & Community Development Commission:
 - a. Geoffrey James Morris
 - b. Michael Augustus Ryer
4. Refunds - Tax Collector
5. Selectman's Report
 - a. Discussion regarding Ballot Questions approved by the Board of Finance
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 03/20/2019

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

1. Public Comment

R. Marconi asked if anyone had any public comments, there were no comments.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to add discussion about the ballot questions that were approved at the Board of Finance Meeting to tonight's agenda as 5a. Motion carried 5-0.

2. "Make Music Day" Ridgefield Proclamation

R. Marconi called Jennifer DiLaura & Mark Meachem from the Arts Council to discuss the "Make Music Day" Ridgefield Proclamation.

R. Marconi asked how "Make Music Day" evolved. J. DiLaura was contacted by the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County, they were looking for towns. With what is happening in Ridgefield and how music is such a great way to bring people together they thought this would be a great event. J. DiLaura spoke with people in the arts community regarding "Make Music Day" and everyone said yes. This is an international event that will take place in over 1,000 cities around the world (about 15 of those are in Connecticut) on Friday, June 21, 2019.

M. Kozlark asked what we are going to do to honor "Make Music Day"? J. DiLaura stated that there will be music in the streets, everywhere that people want music there will be music. There is a website that is provided by the organization that created "Make Music Day", there is very little the towns have to do, the website (www.makemusicday.org) provides matching software that that can provide an artist to a venue, or a venue to an artist.

The Lounsbury House, the Ridgefield Library & Town Hall are all participating, there will be others as they sign up. Everyone involved is volunteering their time, streets will not be closed for this event.

Calls are going out looking piano donations for the event, there are already three stores that would like to have them in front. The Guild of Artists will take care of painting the pianos. R. Marconi offered to store the pianos in the Schlumberger Sky Dome Building prior to the event.

A \$1,000 grant from the Connecticut State Office of the Arts (they are supporting "Make Music Day" in Connecticut) was given to the Art Council of Ridgefield for "Make Music Day" Ridgefield.

The Art Walk will be held on Saturday, August 24th, not sure what businesses will be participating at this time. It may just take place at Town Hall.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to declare Friday, June 21, 2019 "Making Music Ridgefield Day". Motion carried 5-0.

Kathy Brennan - 1 Lawson Lane, Ridgefield stated that there were kids from Ridgefield High School that held a concert on the porch of the Lounsbury House that was very well received.

3. Reappointments:

Commission on Aging: Kathleen Brennan & Sheila Silverman

Both K. Brennan & S. Silverman have been serving on the commission for twelve years.

The commission started a new program this winter, they are having either an outside speaker or a presentation in Town Hall. A card has been sent out to residents letting them know who the speaker/presenter is for each month. So far they had someone from Attria as well as an Attorney for Estate Planning. The commission has a table at the Health Fair and this is where a lot of possible speakers/presenters reach out. The commission does send out mailings to inform the residents of what is going on as well as putting posters up at Founder's Hall and by word of mouth. Information about the commission's events can always be found at Ballard Green, Congregate & Founders Hall.

Rides for Ridgefield is a wonderful service that people have been so thankful for, they can get rides to doctor appointments, etc.

The commission currently has a vacancy as Dayna Sierakowski is leaving the commission.

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Kathleen Brennan and Shiela Silverman to the Commission on Aging for another term. Motion carried 5-0.

Commission for Accessibility: Donald C. Ciota

Commission for Accessibility is a new name, it was a Charter change, the commission was formerly known as the Commission for the Disabled. The commission was very thankful for all of the help & support in getting this done, this is a change that will promote more positivity.

R. Marconi stated that there probably isn't a day that goes by now that he isn't talking about accessibility with someone whether it is in town or with someone from another town.

D. Ciota stated that we are currently undergoing a town wide assessment that started last year that the Institute for Human Centered Design is doing. Preliminary reports were done and T. Phillips has handed them out to the various departments and/or entities that are effected. The hope is that everyone looks over the report to see if there are any obvious mistakes, errors, or things they want to change or discuss and then send it back so that they may finish the program. When the reports are sent back the IHCD will say what needs to be improved and/or fixed and giving cost estimates for each one of these items, we will end up with a booklet from A-Z that will explain exactly what has to happen as well as the costs, this is the endgame.

M. Kozlark suggested that it might be helpful to the departments if someone from the commission was available to go through this reports with them which could hopefully help the response time. S. Zemo also suggested that since the commission currently has 5 vacancies that it might be helpful to have an intern help out gathering information, making follow up phone calls and booking meetings.

The commission is currently looking for people to serve, Amy from the R. Marconi's office found Catherine McNulty who lives in town and is a school administrator as well as a school phycologist in Katonah Lewisboro who has a great extensive knowledge of working with special needs as well as the school system, she is interested in coming to our meeting. In looking for members the commission would prefer someone with a knowledge of ADA but that isn't a disqualifier, anyone who is interested and would like to join is welcome.

Building code and Ada code are similar, it would be helpful to have a check off box on the building permit stating that information has been provided informing the builder that this project could be subject to ADA Accessibility requirements and that it is the their reasonability. It would be great if builders had an ADA specialist that could review & look at plans on a volunteer basis.

They are trying the best they can to educate the public, T. Phillips sends out messages on our social media platform about sow plowing and not putting all the snow into handicapped spots.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to reappoint Donald C. Ciota to the Commission for Accessibility for another term. Motion carried 5-0.

Phillip Kearns speaking on behalf of Parks & Recreation stated that their commission received their report this past Monday and they are requested to respond by Thursday, April 11, 2019. There could be tardiness but at this point in time people are still going through the process, it's not due for another week. They don't want to give the BOS the impression that people have been sitting on it doing nothing.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Philip S. Kearns & David Michael Shofi

The commission is looking to accomplish a few things this year, the first is to continue to improve the customer experience, they had customer relations training last year that they are going to continue, they are focusing on making communication better with new software which will allow for online registration, this will greatly help with the customer experience as they will be able to go online and see what's available and be able to book it without having to wait in line.

The second relates to the strategic plan they developed this is a lot more community outreach which falls into two categories social community outreach and service, service would tend to be free things for example the Halloween Howl, the Spring Fling and the Senior Luau, they would like to add some additional events as it is important for the sense of community. B. Manners will supply the dates of the concerts to Dennis so they could be put in the catalog.

The third is trying to shore up a few of their programs as there are a few that are under performing, they hope to revitalize those.

R. Marconi brought up the parking situation over at Parks & Rec, wanting to know if they have had an influx of members since The Gym closed as they are having terrible parking problems. The membership has been up since last fall this in combination with the success of Founder's Hall has contributed to the current parking situation, cars are parking anywhere they can find a spot, jump a curb, etc. They do have plans to add 30-70 spots, down to the right of Founder's Hall they would have to reconfigure and extend the parking lot and this would allow for an additional 30-40 spots, you could also take out the hill by the employee parking and another 30 spots or so could go here (due to the turtle situation the second may not be possible) but unfortunately budget issues have pushed this out another year. M. Kozlark brought up possible ride sharing for the employees and R. Marconi suggested that maybe use of the vehicle they use for CHIRP to shuttle employees back and forth. There are currently plans in the budget to add about 20 spots by the soccer field for \$62,000, this was put on hold while C. Fischer was still here as he believed it needed to go out to bid.

M. Kozlark brings up the subject of pickleball. P. Kearns has encouraged anyone wanting to discuss pickleball to attend their meetings, a meeting is finally happening tomorrow morning as some of the people most interest have been in Florida for the winter. There will be a rise in cost for pickleball this year from \$120 to \$240 as well as a bump to \$360 the following year and \$480 the year after that. It was hard for people to understand that there is a rise when we are budgeted at the same \$3,000,000 as last year, what is not understood is that they fell just under \$190,000 short last year. Pickleball is currently being played roughly 39 hours per week, Parks & Rec is even staying open until 9:00pm on Sundays with someone on staff so pickleball can be played. The fee for pickleball isn't as low as other activities due to how much gym time is being spent playing pickleball, if they charged for the gym time it would cost \$800 per person.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to reappoint Philip S. Kearns and David Michael Shofi to the Parks and Recreation Commission for another term. Motion carried 5-0.

Economic & Community Development Commission: Geoffrey James Morris &
Michael Augustus Ryer

The commission has been very active. each member is out doing things in addition to the monthly meetings, John is out there working on filling retail space and has been working on our website making it better. Arnold is very involved in the community, connecting with people. Gus is very much in the commercial field making that happen and Amanda who has only been with the commission for a couple of months is great at connecting with new businesses as well as existing business and helping them to promote themselves.

R. Marconi asked them to talk a little about the POCD presentation. We put together a plan that they think is hopefully form the direction over the next ten years. The ten year plan is required by the state, so much changes in ten years, so they are looking at the short term, medium term and long term plans. R. Marconi asked for a copy of the POCD. In the first year they spoke about completing parking projects that are already in plan but keeping in mind the future and keeping it flexible, considering things like drop off zones for an increase in possible ride share services or down the line autonomous vehicles as well as tram services. Also thinking about electric vehicle charges, bicycle sharing as well as bike paths for a community that is already health conscious and forward thinking.

The other thing is Branchville as there is so much potential here, a huge stumbling block however is sewage and water treatment. Getting people to live in the Branchville area and getting more vibrant residential things, you already have some great shops as well as the train station right there giving you access to NYC as well as lower Fairfield County.

There is also the idea of bringing a hotel into the downtown area that may have 30-40 rooms would be a game changer. Once you have a hotel you could get more Tuesday - Thursday corporate crowds that could stay here and have conferences and things like that. All of these things are good things to think about that the retail stores, restaurants and Tax Collector probably consider to be good things as well.

B. Hebert asked for an update on vacancies on the commission since they have Karen Sulzinsky resigning on April 19th. They are currently talking to a lot of people that are interested, they hope to have somebody soon. They are thinking along the lines of diversity in terms of skill levels, age, geographic, a retail person, people that can touch all parts of the community.

A. Light - During the presentation last night it was a concerted effort by all, they made a formal presentation and sent it to D. Robinson. I will send the BOS a copy.

B. Manners moved M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Geoffrey James Morris and Michael Augustus Ryer to the Economic & Community Development Commission for another term. Motion carried 5-0.

R. Marconi asked T. Keating a sophomore at RHS to come up, he was in attendance as part of his requirements for an Eagle Scout Badge.

4. Refunds - Tax Collector

Tax Collector refunds totaling roughly \$22,000 which is a pretty big amount. There is a Supplemental REal Estate refund for \$4,000 which is for a bill that the Assessor's Office decreased after payment was made. The rest of the refunds are motor vehicles, for the most part.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to accept the refunds from the Tax Collector. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Selectman's Report

We received the notice from the State of Connecticut Citing Council of a petition for the install of the Verizon antennas to be put up on Ledges Road. Verizon had wanted a tax decrease which the Town declined the project is still going to happen. There could be some tax revenue from the antennas R. Marconi would have to discuss this with A. Garzi to determine the amount we could receive.

Ordinance 310-2 Obstructing Sidewalks - No person shall place and lumber, building material, boxes, crates or any other material whatsoever on any sidewalk so as to obstruct the free passage on such sidewalk. The BOS discussed changing the language of the ordinance to be specific to a certain distance, a distance of 4 to 6 feet was discussed. The BOS is going to do a little survey work, check with other towns before making the modification to the ordinance.

R. Marconi met with Stefano regarding the fly over, the Town is currently around 40 deer per square mile. The minimum in the report was 20.27, based on the actual number observed the minimum was corrected to 40. The BOS is going to have a public hearing to discuss a possible deer hunt, in the last Town Meeting on the subject the public was overwhelmingly in favor of the hunt.

5a. Discussion regarding Ballot Questions approved by the Board of Finance

At the Town Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Ridgefield Playhouse we will be approving items under \$100,000. The referendum is Tuesday, May 14, 2019 from 6:00am - 8:00pm. Items under \$100,000 are the Park & Rec locker rooms at \$98,500, A. Neblett's request of \$99,000 for IT and the roofs at Scotland & Branchville School roofs at \$94,000 and \$90,000 respectively. It was decided to bundle the Technology from both the Town as well as the Board of Ed into one question, asking for \$566,000. The roofs for the two schools will also be bundled into one question. The questions will be sent to the Bond Council for their approval. K. Redmond is hoping by April 3, 2019 to review the question group, by April 4, 2019 to send them to Robinson & Cole, for the BOS to hold a Special Meeting either April 9th or 10th, have the BOF approve the questions at their Special Meeting, send notice to the paper on April 11, 2019, published in the paper on April 18, 2019, May 6, 2019 is the Town Meeting and May 14, 2019 is the Referendum.

R. Marconi will tell Robinson & Cole that they are targeting April 9, 2019 for a Special Meeting at 3:00pm to formally vote on the resolutions for bonding, the approval of the questions and the bond language is the most critical part.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to hold a BOS Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 3:00pm to read budget resolutions from the Bond Council. Motion carried 4-0-1.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 03/20/2019

Not everyone had a complete package of the minutes. The will discuss and clean up the minutes and approve at the April 17, 2019 BOS Meeting.

S. Zero moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to adjourn the April 3, 2019 BOS Meeting at 9:25pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollie M. Rapp