



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED**

June 23, 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Barbara Manners, Maureen Kozlark

Absent: Sean Connelly

1) Public comment

There was a question from a Ridgefield resident that prompted a discussion about the rules and regulations for committee and subcommittee appointments.

2) Vendor Permit Renewal – Gigi’s Family Ice Cream

Gigi’s Family Ice Cream is up for permit renewal. There was a discussion about the new regulations that require ice cream trucks to have a stop sign and arm, just like school buses. Mrs. McCue talked about her plan to follow the new regulations and also the various locations that Gigi’s Family Ice Cream truck usually visits.

**Mr. Hebert moved to approve the vendor permit renewal for Gigi’s Family Ice Cream.
Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

3) Appointment

a. Marcus Recck – Parking Authority

Mr. Marconi read Mr. Recck’s request to join the Parking Authority. Mr. Recck discussed his background and why he is interested in joining the committee. He then answered questions from the Board which included ideas on how to handle specific parking issues in Town and how Ridgefield can learn from the Town of Darien, which has a similar parking scenario.

Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the appointment of Marcus Recck for a one-year term on the Parking Authority. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

b. Whit Campbell & Krista Willett – Affordable Housing Committee

Ms. Willett talked about her interest in the Committee and why she is qualified to join. Ms. Willett answered questions from the Board which included what she envisions for the Town for the future and which areas are potential building locations for more housing.

Ms. Manners moved to approve the appointment of Krista Willett for a four-year term on the Affordable Housing Committee. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Campbell discussed what sparked his interest in joining the Affordable Housing Committee and how he has worked at gaining the knowledge that will help him to make a difference if appointed. The Board asked Mr. Campbell questions which covered his thoughts on 8-30G and how the stigma of Affordable Housing can be addressed.

Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the appointment of Whit Campbell for a four-year term on the Affordable Housing Committee. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

c. Christa Carone – ECDC

Ms. Carone talked about her experiences living in different communities and how the Town can take some of the positive consequences from the pandemic and use them as a catalyst to reshape the economic development in Ridgefield. Mr. Morris commented on Ms. Carone's experience and how the ECDC would benefit from having her join. Ms. Carone answered questions from the Board which covered her ideas on how to help grow current businesses and how to attract new business while maintaining the small town feel.

Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the appointment of Christa Carone for a one-year term on the Economic & Community Development Committee. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0

d. Roberta Barbieri – Alternate on Conservation Commission

Mr. Kace showed his support for appointing Ms. Barbieri as an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Ms. Barbieri commented on her experience and

qualifications that make her a good fit for the Commission and discussed the area of her job that is focused on water use efficiency and limiting gas emissions. There was a discussion about the Conservation Commission's role in helping with water conservation.

Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the appointment of Roberta Barbieri as an alternate on the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

e. Kevin Redmond – Interim Deputy Treasurer

Ms. McGeehin explained the need for a Deputy Treasurer and told the Board why Mr. Redmond would be a good fit for the job. Because Mr. Redmond is also the Director of Finance, Mr. Marconi discussed having the First Selectman give an additional sign off when Mr. Redmond acts as Deputy Treasurer in Ms. McGeehin's absence. There was a discussion regarding how Mr. Redmond will balance both the Director of Finance and Deputy Treasure positions.

Mr. Hebert moved to approve the appointment of Kevin Redmond as Interim Deputy Treasurer. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

4) Hair & Nail Salons – Health Director's Request to establish fee

Mr. Briggs discussed the statutes that were passed in 2019 by the State that require the Director of Health to annually inspect all the hair and nail salons in town. With this inspection, the Health Department is allowed to collect a fee for up to \$250. Mr. Briggs is requesting that they establish a \$100 collection fee. Some of the Board members questioned whether this is the right time to start initiating fees considering the struggle many businesses, especially salons, endured during the pandemic. It was suggested to push back on implementing this new fee until 2022. Mr. Briggs commented that there are costs that the Health Department acquire when performing these inspections and most towns in the area have this fee already in place. The Board decided to hold off on implementing any fees and revisit the topic in January.

There were no motions made.

5) Dedication to Open Space in perpetuity – Turner Rd/Barnum Pl

The Board discussed the reasons for placing the property under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission verses leaving it as is once the Town acquires it. If the property is not dedicated to open space in perpetuity, the land could potentially be used for another purpose other than open space in the future.

Mr. Hebert moved to approve to assign the open space at Turner Rd and Barnum Place to the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, contingent on the conveyance taking place and property ownership being given to Ridgefield. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

6) Affordable Housing update – Dave Goldenberg

Mr. Goldenberg gave a presentation on the Affordable Housing Committee. The presentation covered a variety of topics including how population trends have affected housing for seniors, various statistics within Ridgefield, and the different projects that the Committee is currently working on. The projects discussed included the plan for affordable housing in Connecticut, housing for adults with disabilities, the Prospect Ridge expansion, the Accessory Dwelling Units survey, the Branchville transit-oriented development, the 8-30g compliance and retention, the Housing Trust Fund, plans for a Habitat for Humanity site in Ridgefield, and the plan to ramp up communications.

No motions were taken.

7) Ridgefield Housing Authority update – Frank Coyle

Mr. Coyle discussed the details of the waiver for the pilot for the Meadows, which has been granted over the past seven years. The Ridgefield Housing Authority will not be asking for the pilot waiver for 2021-2022. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of turning down the waiver for 2021 and what the best option is financially for both the Meadows and the Town.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on the Ridgefield Housing Authority which included the elevator situation at Congregate Housing, staff turn overs, and the reasons behind the vacancies in 16 apartments.

Ms. Kozlark moved to waive the pilot contribution for the Meadows for another year. Ms. Manners second the motion. Mr. Hebert opposed the motion. Motion carries 3-1.

8) Covid Update

Mr. Marconi commented that there have been no cases in Ridgefield in a while and hospitalizations in Fairfield County are down. The new variant is something to keep an eye on, but right now Ridgefield is in a good place.

9) Approval of Meeting Minutes 3/17/2021 & 5/19/2021

The May 19th meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next BOS meeting.

Ms. Kozlark moved to approved the BOS March 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

10) Selectman's Report

The National Resource Conservation Services, an agency of the Department of Agriculture that oversees all dams in the country, wants to put in a concrete retaining wall for the dam at Fox Hill. This structure will affect the two residential properties adjacent to the dam and will also impact six different road crossings. Mr. Marconi has reached out to Congressman Himes for assistance with putting a stop to this as he feels the NRCS is moving too quickly on the project. All public comments are due by July 6, 2021.

The ECDC approved a three-year tax reduction for Tablao Restaurant that would be approved on an annual basis. Because the Board was divided on their opinions on whether or not to approve it for this year, the topic will be reviewed again at the next meeting when all five Board member are present.

The Commission on Aging has asked the Board to consider placing a plaque in memory of all those in or related to the Ridgefield Community who have lost their lives during the Covid pandemic. The Board considered the plaque and discussed the complications of honoring such a broad group of people and the precedence it would set moving forward.

11) Move July BOS Meeting from 7/14 to 7/21

Ms. Manners moved to approve moving the July 14, 2021 BOS meeting to July 21, 2021. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Manners moved to adjourn the BOS meeting. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:24.