



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

**September 1, 2021 at 7.30pm**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Present:** Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Maureen Kozlark. Sean Connelly

**Absent:** Barbara Manners

**Mr. Hebert moved to add two items to the agenda, #1a. Review of comments from the public hearing regarding the lease with Henny Penny Farm and #11. An executive session. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**1) Public comment**

Nicholas Fischetti, who resides at 43 Hayes Lane, asked for full transparency and disclosure of documents pertaining to the rental property at 19 Market Street.

Kirk Carr, who resides at 62 Prospect Ridge, commented that he feels the Cannabis Retail Moratorium imposed by Planning and Zoning is really important and the Town should take the time to do their homework before making a decision.

**a. Review of comments made at the public hearing regarding the lease between the Town and Whitney Freedman.**

The Board made two minor language changes to the lease. The word *may* will be changed to *shall* and the word *birds* will be changed to *species*. Any substantive changes to the lease would require another public hearing. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Hebert both shared that they are in full support of renewing the lease.

**2) Appointments & Re-appointments**

**a. Mary Morrisroe: re-appointment to Commission on Aging**

Due to the weather, Mary Morrisroe could not attend the meeting and will be on the 9/22/21 agenda.

**b. George Noyes: re-appointment to Commission on Aging**

Mr. Noyes talked in detail about many of the projects he has been working on with

the Commission. Transportation, affordable housing, medical issues, social issues, technology and communications were among the topics discussed.

**Ms. Kozlark moved to reappoint George Noyes for another 3-year term on the Commission on Aging. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**c. Bryan Sherman: Golf Committee**

Mr. Sherman was given the opportunity to talk about his recent move to Ridgefield, his drive to get involved in the community and why he would be a great addition to the Golf Committee. The Board asked Mr. Sherman several questions which included what improvements can be made, which skills he can bring to the committee, and how to get the younger population more involved.

**Mr. Hebert moved to approve the appointment of Bryan Sherman for a 4-year term on the Golf Committee. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**d. Mark Mischenko: Golf Committee**

Mr. Mischenko talked about his involvement with various sports organizations in Town and how his son's new found love for Golf sparked his interest in the Golf Committee. Mr. Connelly commented that he has known Mr. Mischenko for years and thinks he is a natural leader and would be a great addition to the Committee.

**Mr. Connelly moved to approve the appointment of Mark Mischenko for a 4-year term on the Golf Committee. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**e. Corinne Ketchum: WPCA**

Ms. Ketchum talked about her wish to become more involved in the Ridgefield community and gave an update on her background which includes an education in civil and environmental engineering, and a career in land development that required an understanding of all the aspects of permitting. Ms. Ketchum also worked for a company where the focus was on municipal dealings such as sewer water and land use. For the past 10 years, Ms. Ketchum has been doing risk and resilient assessments and security design. There was a discussion about the overages the Town is experiencing from the shutdown of the Route 7 plant and who is overseeing and managing the costs.

**Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the appointment of Corinne Ketchum for a 4-year term on the WPCA. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

### **3) Cannabis Retail Discussion**

Geoffrey Morris, a member of the ECDC, hosted a meeting to learn more about the Cannabis retail industry and how it could benefit the Economics and Tourism in Ridgefield. Mr. Morris thinks the Moratorium is a good idea as long as the Town doesn't lose the license by taking too long to make a decision. The Board will wait to hear the comments from the Public Hearing scheduled by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 14<sup>th</sup> before addressing the issue. Mr. Connolly pointed out that the Town should not only look at this decision from a tax revenue standpoint, but should also consider the number of jobs it will create for Ridgefield. If Planning and Zoning decides to put the decision in the hands of the Board of Selectman, the Board will then hold public hearings and do their due diligence before taking a vote.

**No motions were made.**

### **4) Deer Hunt Parcel Approval -**

The Conservation Commission voted to approve the hunt parameters for 21-22. The Golf Committee will be asked to weigh in on the approval for the hunt on the Golf Course. Huntmaster Stefano Zandri talked about the number of kills the committee had last year and what they expect for this coming year.

**Mr. Hebert moved to approve the list of properties for the 2021-2021 Deer Hunt. Ms. Kozlark second the approval. Motion carries 4-0.**

### **5) Boards, Committees and Commission Guidelines**

Due to inclement weather and the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director Dick Aarons, this item was postponed until the next meeting so the Board members could get home safely.

### **6) COVID update**

Due to inclement weather and the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director Dick Aarons, this item was postponed until the next meeting so the Board members could get home safely.

### **7) Tax Collector Refunds**

Due to inclement weather and the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director Dick Aarons, this item was postponed until the next meeting so the Board members could get home safely.

### **8) ARPA/WPCA Request**

The discussion was about a recommendation to the BOF, who is holding a special meeting on

September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the use of ARPA funds for assistance with the WPCA pump line. There will also be a Public Hearing and Town Meeting to approve the use of the ARPA funds. Amy Siebert talked about the importance of the infrastructure and what the WPCA can do to reduce the financial take from the ARPA funds for the project.

**Ms. Kozlark moved to approve the First Selectman to send a letter of recommendation to the BOF for the use of ARPA funds for assistance with the WPCA pump line. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Mr. Hebert opposed. Motion carries 3-1.**

## **9) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Due to inclement weather and the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director Dick Aarons, this item was postponed until the next meeting so the Board members could get home safely.

## **10) Selectman's report**

### **a. Eversource improvements update**

There were no new updates to report.

### **b. Norwalk River Dam update**

There were no new updates to report

### **c. 34 Bailey Ave – an application has come in for the raising of the building.**

### **d. State of Emergency Lift approval**

Approval required from the Board.

Due to inclement weather and the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director Dick Aarons, these items were postponed until the next meeting so the Board members could get home safely.

## **11) Executive Session**

**Mr. Hebert moved to end the public meeting and move to an Executive Session. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

