

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - 7:30pm
Town Hall, (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
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. Zemo (absent)

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Appointment:
 - a. Tarah Sleight - Youth Candidate for Ridgefield Prevention Council
3. Ridgefield Pride - Request to be added to Friends of Ridgefield
4. Tiger Hollow Presentation - Jill Bornstein & Dane Street
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2019
6. Selectman's Report

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

1. Public Comment

2. Appointment

a. Tarah Sleight - Youth Candidate for Ridgefield Prevention Council

Tarah Sleight wants to be a part of the Ridgefield Prevention Council. Miss Sleight is interested in helping to improve the community by implementing programs that could be used to help educate students with the goal of preventing the use of addictive substances. She thinks students are more likely to listen to their peers instead of adults.

The BOS discussed the vaping situation at the high school with Miss Sleight. She said even though the high school has the vape sensors, students are still finding a way around them. It appears to Miss Sleight that vaping is very prevalent among younger students. The BOS continues to express concerns on this issue and are watching to see if the State institutes a ban on vaping.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Tarah Sleight as a Youth Candidate to the Ridgefield Prevention Council. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Ridgefield Pride - Request to be added to Friends of Ridgefield

Alisa Trachtenberg of Ridgefield CT Pride came before the BOS asking to be included under the Friends of Ridgefield Umbrella to give their organization the ability to raise funds.

Ridgefield CT Pride was started in 2019 in order to help create awareness for LGBTQ issues and help the LGBTQ citizens of Ridgefield know that they are valued members of the Ridgefield community. Last year they held a Ridgefield Pride event which was very successful despite their shoestring budget. This year they are collaborating with Ridgefield Parks & Rec as well as Suzanne Brennan of the Lounsbury House to sponsor an even better event.

Ms. Trachtenberg would like Ridgefield Pride to be able to hold support groups for the LGBTQ community as well as for their friends and families. She believes that creating awareness is very helpful, and stated that last year the schools had their first district-wide training to help create awareness. It's very important that people know that this community is welcoming to the LGBTQ community and that Ridgefield is an accepting, inclusive community.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion for Ridgefield Pride to be added to the Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs Umbrella. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Tiger Hollow Presentation - Jill Bornstein & Dane Street

Jill Bornstein and Dane Street, the RHS Athletic Director, were at the BOS meeting to discuss Tiger Hollow. Ms. Bornstein joined Tiger Hollow, Inc. as their president about a year and a half ago. She reported Tiger Hollow, Inc. had recently purchased three new scoreboards for the Tiger Hollow Field, the softball field, and the RHS Gymnasium, at a cost of \$268,515. This project was in the last Tiger Hollow 10 year plan.

Their presentation stated that the mission of Tiger Hollow Inc., is to help support capital projects aligned with initiatives that the school, the Town, and other volunteer organizations have. The BOS funds Tiger Hollow annually with \$43,000, in the Town budget contributed to a sinking fund for field replacement.

There was discussion about Tiger Hollow's ADA compliance. This is one of the items on Tiger Hollow's current 10 year plan. ADA compliance has been addressed in some areas but work continues to be done to mitigate challenges of access with steep slopes.

Tiger Hollow I was installed in 2001. The turf field is on about a 10 year replacement schedule and is next scheduled for 2020, 2021. In 2011 the sinking fund paid for the replacement as well as a track resurface. There wasn't enough in the fund at that time to fund both projects and the Town is still paying \$5,000 each year for the 2011 replacement, with a balance of \$143,000.

The Tiger Hollow track hasn't been fully redone since 2001, when it was installed. It has a lifespan of 18-20 years. The track has held up fairly well but it needs attention. There have been three or four resurfacing since 2001, which is a repainting of the track in order to conceal any inconsistencies on the surface. The options going forward are to replace the track, which would cost about \$500,000, or do another structural spray to the track which would run somewhere from \$75,000 - \$100,000. Spraying the track would push the need for installing a new track out a couple of years.

Tiger Hollow II was installed in 2013 and will be up for replacement in 2023. The BOS currently funds \$20,000 in the Town budget for a sinking fund to go toward turf replacement on Tiger Hollow II. There was discussion regarding the BOE matching the BOS's contribution, M. Kozlark volunteered to go back to the old BOS minutes to research this.

Mr. Street explained the different options currently available for turf fields. Tiger Hollow, Inc. originally looked at \$400,000 to resurface the fields every 10 years. It is now looking like it will cost closer to \$800,000, if the turf field is modified according to current technology. The track would cost about \$500,000 to redo.

Tiger Hollow does project specific fund raising as explained to the BOS by Ms. Bornstein. That is the reason why the money was spent on the scoreboards and wasn't set aside to help contribute to the track and field replacement costs. The BOS expressed concern over the expenditure of the new scoreboards when there are maintenance issues that need to be addressed. M. Kozlark asked Ms. Bornstein if another fund raiser could be instituted to help alleviate some of the replacement costs for the track and field. Ms. Bornstein stated that she would have to talk to her board. The BOS acknowledged the importance of Tiger Hollow, but expressed concern about costs in light of other Town needs.

R. Marconi asked if Tiger Hollow could put together a 5-10 year look ahead that needs to be addressed when they review the budgets in a couple of months.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2019

The BOS looked over and approved the minutes from their October 23, 2019 meeting.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve the October 23, 2019 Minutes from the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Selectman's Report

The Tourism Board

The West Connecticut Convention & Visitor's Bureau representing 63 towns, is looking for a representative from Ridgefield, Di Masters was the Town's previous appointment. B. Manners responded that she might be interested.

Election

R. Marconi handed out the results from the November 5th election.

Tri-Board Meeting

R. Marconi stated the tri-board meeting is on November 19th. The BOS discussed possible ways to make this a more productive meeting. It is a difficult task because there are almost 20 people making up the three boards. Because this is a Board of Finance meeting, any modifications will have to be made by that board.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:45pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollie M. Rapp