

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 - 6:30 pm
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, S. Zemo, M. Kozlark

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Earth Day Proclamation
3. Reappointments: Conservation Commission – Jack Kace, Commission for the Disabled – Christina Calabro
4. Teen Barn Report – Mike Flynn, Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club
5. Vendor Permit Renewals: The Natural Scoop, Zawack Shack
6. Vendor Permit Approval: Tasty McGee's – Craig McGee
7. Schlumberger Phase II – **Removed from the Agenda**
8. Deer Hunt Discussion
9. Approval of Tax Refunds
10. Selectman's Report
11. Approval of Meeting Minutes 4/4/18

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

BOS removed from the agenda item #7 Schlumberger Phase II. BOS is not ready to discuss this topic at this point.

R. Marconi clarified that the Ridgefield Press announced in the paper a Public Hearing for May 9th, 2018 regarding the Proposed Fracking Ordinance. The Public Hearing will not be taking place on that date. BOS decided to get more information on the Proposed Fracking Ordinance and wait for the State's decision before scheduling the Public Hearing.

1. **Public Comment** – No Comments from the Public

2. **Earth Day Proclamation**

R. Marconi read the Proclamation for Earth Day 2018.

B. Hebert stated there is not a definition for Green Economy and doesn't agree with using that term for Earth Day Proclamation. The Proclamation is written by Earth Day Network – A global activist group that advocates for Environmental protection. B. Hebert proposed that the language in the Proclamation be changed.

R. Marconi asked Barbara Hartman if she agrees with changing the language in the Proclamation. The answer was Yes.

BOS discussed and decided to remove the word Economy and replace it with initiatives.

R. Marconi asked B. Hartman if she would like to add something. B. Hartman stated this coming Saturday and Sunday, April 21st & April 22nd are Rid Litter Days. All residents of Ridgefield are encouraged to participate. We have been doing this for over 25 years, and just last year we collected 1440 pounds of litter. April 22, 2018 is the kick off for the Ridgefield Pollinator Pathway Program.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as amended The Proclamation Earth Day 2018. Motion Carried 5-0.

3. Reappointments:

Conservation Commission – Jack S. Kace

J. Kace came forward to introduce himself to the Board. R. Marconi read the letter where J. Kace expresses his desire to continue to serve on the Conservation Commission for another term.

S. Zemo asked if J. Kace is satisfied with the role of the Commission on the zoning application process. J. Kace stated he is not satisfied. He has written to the Charter Revision Commission expressing his opinion of splitting the Boards because the inland/wetlands are not being protected with the current arrangements. By law the Conservation Commission can and should advise Inland/Wetland Board on the decisions they make. Conservation Commission makes recommendations based on best practices from other communities around Ridgefield. So far, every recommendation the Commission has made on the 95% of cases, Inland/Wetland Board comes with less than what was recommended. They have improved but they never go to that standard of best practices that the Commission expects to be used.

B. Manners asked what's J. Kace area of focus. J. Kace responded he has spent most of his time on Enforcement. Years ago, people were abusing open spaces. The Ordinance that was created to protect open spaces has been very effective. It helped resolve a situation with a homeowner who was cutting down of lot of trees on open space. The ordinance gave the Commission legal power to fine him but that didn't happen. The homeowner settled with the town for \$85,000.

M. Kozlark asked what the Commission's plans are going forward. J. Kace responded The Conservation Commission is always looking for potential land acquisitions. Right now, we are looking at possible acquisitions where we would use open space that have been contributed by residents over the years.

B. Hebert asked where does the \$85,000 from the settlement go. R. Marconi explained the funds go towards legal costs, replanting and the maintenance of that area.

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to reappoint Jack Kace to the Conservation Commission for another term. Motion Carried 5-0.

Commission for the Disabled – Christina Calabro

Christina Calabro came forward to present herself to the Board. She has been serving on the Commission for 5 years. R. Marconi read the letter where C. Calabro expresses her desire to continue to serve on the Commission for the Disabled. C. Calabro stated the ADA Self-Assessment is about to start and the Commission is taking initiative to recruit more members. There are 5 Vacancies that need to be filled.

M. Kozlark asked how the Commission is planning to share responsibilities of the ADA self-assessment between members. C. Calabro stated the Commission is working on coming up with a plan. Each one of the members will take on different points of contact.

B. Hebert asked how long the Self-Assessment will take and when will the Commission come back to the Board with an update. C. Calabro stated the Commission will have clarity on the timeline next week and the Commission will update the Board maybe in September.

S. Zemo suggested the Commission for the Disabled look for people who would like to volunteer in places such as Founder's Hall, Rotary Club, Lion's Club and other clubs in Town.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to reappoint Christina Calabro to the Commission for the Disabled for another term. Motion Carried 5-0.

4. Teen Barn Report – Mike Flynn, Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club

Mike Flynn came forward to provide Teen Barn Report to the Board. R. Marconi read a letter with the 2017 report of the Barn-Teen center and the request for the annual funding from the town in the amount of \$65,000 for the fiscal year of 7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019 to be paid in lump sum before or during the Club's Q4 of 2018 (10/2018 – 12/2018).

M. Flynn stated the first full year of Teen Barn has been very successful and thanks the Town for the support. Membership has increased at about 10%, from 86 members in 2016, it went up to 97 members in 2017. In March, the first award banquet took place where the Youth of the Year was selected. This year Barn Citizens of the Year was implemented as well, and two kids were honored. R. Marconi asked how the kids were selected. M. Flynn stated the kids are nominated by the staff in the barn. We look at leadership qualities, kids that go out of their way to connect with others, positive outlook, positive attitude and participation. M. Kozlark asked if there have been any negative comments from the public. The answer was No.

B. Hebert asked how many staff are present every day. M. Flynn stated there is a minimum of two people working most of the time. B. Hebert asked if the kids are taking advantage of the Boys & Girls Club activities. M. Flynn stated everything is open to the kids. The fee structure is still the same. The kids are entitled to any program offered by the Club and they are taking advantage of that.

B. Hebert asked if there are individual success stories. M. Flynn stated there have been kids that have faced tough times and the barn has been the place where they come to leave those worries behind. They feel connected in the barn and it has helped them through some tough times.

Discussion ensued about the fact that the agreement states the RBGC would assume 50 percent of some expenses (utilities), which amounts to approximately \$5,000. It is the Board's desire that the RBGC would receive the full \$65k and the utilities would be taken care of by the Town.

S. Zemo asked if there is a particular reason why the Barn is not open on Saturday. M. Flynn stated finances and staffing play a part but one of the major reasons why the Barn is closed on Saturday is lack of demand.

B. Manners asked what kind of trips does the Barn offer. M. Flynn stated some of the trips the Barn has offered have been nature hiking, beach trips in the Summer, laser tags and bowling.

B. Manners asked if there is a lot of vaping going on outside the Barn. M. Flynn stated staff has not seen vaping use. B. Hebert asked what the consequences are if kids are caught vaping. M. Flynn responded some type of suspension is a consequence. It is an understood policy that any type .

5. Vendor Permit Renewals: The Natural Scoop, Zawack Shack

The Natural Scoop

Kirstin Cerulli and Carin Crook of The Natural Scoop came in front of the Board to request renewal of their vendor permit. B. Manners asked how last season went and K. Cerulli stated it was a great season. We did less roaming and more private events.

M. Kozlark asked if the Natural Scoop franchised. The answer was not yet.

R. Marconi asked when roaming, does the Natural Scoop ever go to facilities that have concession stands. The answer was No.

B. Hebert asked if the new business model met revenue last season. The answer was Yes, it was more efficient and profitable.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to renew the vendor permit for Kirstin Cerulli and Carin Crook of the Natural Scoop. Motion passed 5-0.

Zawack Shack

Greg and Joan Zawacki from Zawack Shack came in front of the Board to request renewal of their vendor permit. G. Zawacki stated that Zawack Shack has been operating in the same location for 8 years. Last year we purchased a truck and we have been driving around. S. Zemo asked how Zawack Shack finds out there is an event in town. J. Zawacki stated that we have been around for years now and people know us, and they call or email to let us know there is an event in town.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to renew the vendor permit for Greg and Joan Zawacki of the Zawack Shack. Motion Carried 5-0.

6. Vendor Permit Approval: Tasty McGee's – Craig McGee

Craig McGee from Tasty McGee's came in front of the Board to introduce himself and request vendor permit approval for Tasty McGee's. C. McGee stated he has been working with Parks & Rec and they have assigned locations where Tasty McGee can operate. Tasty McGee will be operating Saturday's during baseball and soccer season. The three locations that were discussed were Scalzo Field, the Parks and Rec Facility and Ridgefield Youth Football.

R. Marconi stated Parks & Rec does not oversee Ridgefield Youth Football and Tasty McGee's should request approval from the Ridgefield Youth Football if he can operate in that location, reiterating that they must be in compliance with the ordinance when vending at the fields.

B. Hebert asked if this is the first venture into this type of business C. McGee is undertaking. The Answer was Yes.

B. Manners asked if C. McGee has experience working for others. C. McGee stated he worked in the food service many years ago. He is not a trained chef, but cooking is his passion.

M. Kozlark asked if C. McGee will be operating the truck by himself or with a partner. C. McGee stated he will be working with a partner. R. Marconi stated the other person needs to do the paper work as well and Mr. McGee will provide a copy of his Food Handlers license for the file.

B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the Vendor Permit for Craig McGee of the Tasty McGee's. Motion Carried 5-0.

7. Deer Hunt Discussion

BOS discussed the scheduling of Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting for the Deer Hunt.

B. Manners suggested that before anything is scheduled, the information for that meeting be disseminated to the public. B. Manners also stated she does not like the idea of using bait stations.

M. Kozlark stated she conducted a mini survey and sent it to a group of people. The results showed people were grateful the number of deer car accidents had been reduced and that Lyme Disease was being mitigated. People were fine with the way the deer population is being handled.

R. Marconi suggested finding someone who would present the information gathered from The Conservation Commission, Chief of Police and the General Public.

S. Zemo suggested looking for any state guidelines or policies on the number of takes. People are not happy one hunter took 30 deer.

BOS discussed and agreed that more information is needed on the number of deer population, what is a stable population and how to maintain it. BOS decided to bring back Deer Hunt discussion and compare information gathered in the Fall, maybe September.

Jim Coyle from the Conservation Commission stated it's hard to get numbers of how many deer are there, what is a stable population and what sustains the population.

Jack Kace from the Conservation Commission suggested Ed Faison who works at Highstead to present the information that will be gathered in the following months. He is very knowledgeable on the Deer Population.

8. Approval of Tax Refunds

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve Tax Refunds of \$12,519.55 as submitted from Tax Collector Jane Berendsen-Hill on 4/12/18. Motion Carried 5-0.

9. Selectman's Report

2017-2018 Snow Storm Information and Cost Data – \$619,000.25 have been spent this year for snow removal during storm season.

R. Marconi informed the town is going to receive a check of \$180,000 in May from the State LOCIP fund.

Boys Scout Clean Main Street – April 28, starting at 10am with a ceremony at the Flag Pole.

Rid Litter Day – April 21st & April 22nd, 2018.

RVNA Health Fair – Saturday, April 21st, 2018 at East Ridge Middle School from 10am-3pm.

Charter Revision - Special Meeting on Saturday, April 21st, 2018. At 8:30am in the Large Conference Room, Town Hall.

Downtown Ridgefield Spring Fling – Spring Walk May 5th, 2018.

Annual Town Budget Meeting – May 7th at 7:30 pm at East Ridge Middle School; Referendum May 15 from 6 am to 8 pm at Yanity Gym.

Jerry Hupy Resigned from AAC/VDC

R. Marconi read, and BOS discussed the possible vote on Proposed Charter changes that will be discussed in the Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes 4/4/18

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as written the 4/4/2018 BOS Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 5-0.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:38p.m. Motion Carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nita Asani