



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED
June 15, 2022 at 6.30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Bob Hebert, Barbara Manners

Absent: Maureen Kozlark

Mr. Marconi clarified that there is no Public Hearing tonight to discuss the Affordable Housing Plan; however, one will be scheduled once the revised plan has been submitted.

1. Public Comment

Lisa Delguidice who lives at 99 North Salem Rd and is a teacher at RCK preschool asked for the Board of Selectman to help plead RCK's case for the continued use of the space at the Lounsbury House for their Preschool.

R. Marconi read a letter he wrote and sent on behalf of the Board of Selectman to the Board of Directors of the Lounsbury House requesting they reconsider terminating RCK's lease.

Kurt Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, appeared before the Board to propose an alternate option to the Cannabis Ordinance that is being proposed by the Board of Selectman. K. Carr along with two other Ridgefield residents submitted an application to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a change in zoning regulation to prohibit cannabis consistent with the policy passed by the Board of Selectman. K. Carr asked the Board to consider supporting this option.

Christine More, 63 Scott Ridge Rd, appeared before the Board to advocate for the children in Ridgefield who she feels have endured the most hardships during the pandemic. C. More requested that a portion of the ARPA funds go toward support services at the schools for mental health and academics, and security.

2. Appointments & Reappointments

a. Roberta Barbieri: alternate to full member of Conservation Commission

Roberta Barbieri talked about her experience as an alternate member on the Commission over the past year, which has been focused on native plants and

eradication of invasive species. Currently, R. Barbieri is working on ridding invasive species at McKeon Farm. There was a discussion about how to tackle the invasive species problem throughout Ridgefield, what the most common types are, and how to educate the community on the issue.

B. Manners suggested the Commission recruit Boy and Girl Scout troops to help pull out the invasive species.

R. Marconi asked which trees could be planted alongside the roads that would not be affected when the roads are salted in the winter.

B. Hebert moved to approve the appointment of Roberta Barbieri as a full member for a three-year term to the Conservation Commission. B. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

b. Christofer Christiansen: Reappoint to Pension Commission

Chris Christiansen who has served for 30 years on the Pension Commission is up for reappointment. C. Christiansen shared what he enjoys about serving on the Commission and talked about some of the projects he has been working on. He also discussed the data for this year compared to that from last year.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a mid-term adjustment to the budget and the idea of creating a rainy-day fund to be used when needed.

B. Hebert moved to approve the reappointment of Christofer Christiansen for a three-year term to the Pension Commission. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

c. Michael Gil: Appoint to the Insurance & Risk Management Committee

Michael Gil talked about his move to Ridgefield, his professional background and the reasons he is a good fit for the Committee.

Jeff Wark, IRMC member, spoke in support of appointing of Michael Gil to the Committee.

There was a discussion about Corvus, the Town's current cyber security company, what the other vulnerabilities exist in addition to cyber security, and the concept of rate stabilization

B. Manners moved to appoint Michael Gil for a four-year term to the Insurance & Risk Management Committee. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

d. Zig: appoint to Pension Commission -rescheduled for August 17, 2022

3. Vender Permit – College Creamery

Fabiana Vonloeser would like to get a vender permit for College Creamery, an ice cream truck that sells prepackaged ice cream. F. Vonloeser talked about the history of the

business, the reason her family purchased the truck, and the logistics of running the business with her two daughters. College Creamery has been invited to serve at the Rec Center Camp this summer and also at a few private parties in Ridgefield.

S. Connelly moved to approve the one-year Vender Permit for College Creamery. B. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

4. Set Public Hearing & Special Town Meeting Dates

a. Ponds Edge: Purchase and Sale Agreement

Pond's Edge Ridgefield, LLC would like to purchase the property known as *Parcel C, 877 Ethan Allen Highway, Map G10, Lot 37 and Parcel D, Ethan Allen Highway, Map G10, Lot 2* from the Town for \$441,000. The money from the sale will go back into the ARPA funding.

K. Carr commented that there was some push back on the sale from the public during the most recent Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.

Andrea Beebe, Chair of the Commission on Aging, commented that she too observed push back and asked who is responsible for the decommissioning and cleanup of the sewer plant. R. Marconi responded that it falls under the responsibility of the WPCA and was included in the bid.

B. Manners feels there should be a town meeting and public hearing before the Board votes and therefore abstained from tonight's vote.

B. Hebert moved to approve the Purchase and Sale Contract between the Town of Ridgefield and Pond's Edge Ridgefield LLC conditioned upon a Public Hearing, Town Meeting, approval from Planning & Zoning, and the 824 referral. S. Connelly second the motion. B. Manners abstained for reasons stated in the minutes. Motion carries 3-0-1.

b. Cannabis Ordinance

R. Marconi reviewed the reason the Board has decided to move forward with an Ordinance. The Board already voted in favor of a Policy prohibiting Cannabis Retail in Ridgefield; however, Planning & Zoning's vote failed. Planning & Zoning cannot override an Ordinance because it is a law, however they can disregard a Policy.

K. Carr talked again about the application he submitted to Planning & Zoning and the reason he feels the Board should hold off on the Ordinance.

R. Marconi commented that he feels that if the Board does not pass an Ordinance there is a risk that Cannabis sale in Ridgefield will be approved.

The expiration on the Planning & Zoning moratorium is September 24, 2022 and can be extended if P&Z chooses to.

B. Hebert moved to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for July 13, 2022 and August 17, 2022 and a Town Meeting for September 7, 2022 for the

purpose of enacting a Cannabis Prohibiting Ordinance in the Town of Ridgefield. B. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

5. Tax Collector Refunds

S. Connelly moved to approve the Tax Collector Refunds of \$5,886.37. B. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

6. Approval of BOS Meeting Minutes

B. Hebert moved to approve the June 1, 2022 BOS Special Meeting Minutes. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

S. Connelly moved to approve the June 1, 2022 BOS Meeting Minutes as modified. B. Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

7. Selectman's Report

Robert Hendrick, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission, commented that P&Z has accepted K. Carr's application and described the process they would go through if they choose to move forward with the application.

There was discussion about what happens if the Cannabis Ordinance does not get approved at the Town Meeting. R. Hendrick, commented on what they have discussed in their meetings. If the Ordinance fails, P&Z will have to start the entire process again with Town Meetings and Public Hearings in order to come up with regulations for zoning. The P&Z Commission is also allowed to control signage and hours and would use their ability to regulate as much as possible. R. Marconi asked if P&Z would extend the moratorium. R. Hendrick responded that they might but the extension would be to give them time to get their regulations in order which would be only a few months.

The Ridgefield Historical Society, The Ridgefield District Commission and R. Marconi have been meeting to discuss modifications to the current Demolition Delay Ordinance to make penalties harsher.

The Town has a tentative agreement with Save the Sound and the conclusion is going to cost the town money. A motion was filed against the Town for not submitting the proper paperwork to DEEP, even though the necessary work was completed. In the agreement, whatever money is paid for in penalties has to be used in the Town of Ridgefield to improve an environmental issue.

B. Hebert asked for an update on the sewer project. The project is within budget as of now and is moving forward very slowly. There have been meetings with the owner to try to get more manpower. R. Marconi will get a report with more information and pass it

along to the Board.

There will be another meeting with KBA regarding the plans for the new Public Safety building. The original plan presented was not well received in terms of the building layout, traffic patterns and amount of asphalt so KBA is working on revising it.

There was a meeting to discuss the ARPA requests. There have been several requests for funds to help make up for losses during COVID from various Organizations, Committees and Commissions in Town. There will be another meeting before moving forward with the process.

A. Beebe asked about the request for her Commission. R. Marconi commented that ARPA funds will first be distributed to 501Cs and non-profit organizations. A. Beebe commented that the Commission on Aging did not receive any of the grants they applied for and therefore do not have the money for certain projects. R. Marconi suggested calling Tony Phillips in Social Services to ask about a specific grant.

R. Marconi sent a letter to the Board of Selectman for review regarding the WPCA's opinion on Prospect Ridge as a location for Affordable Housing.

B. Manners moved to adjourn the June 15, 2022 BOS Meeting. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.