



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED
August 16, 2023 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

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

Absent: Barbara Manners

1. Conservation Commission appointment

Jana Hogan would like to join the Conservation Commission as an alternate. Ms. Hogan talked about her volunteer time at Woodcock Nature Center and how she would like to focus on invasive species if she is appointed. There was a discussion about invasive plants and the native plant policy.

Bob Hebert moved to appoint Jana Hogan to an alternate position on the Conservation Commission. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

2. Property review for 2023-2024 Deer Hunt Season

Stefano Zandri, Stephen Scala and Paul Payne appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed properties for the 2023/2024 deer hunt season. Rudy Marconi read the list of properties and a letter from Jim Coyle, Conservation Commission Chair, from 2022 that explains the conditions that must be met for approval. Mr. Zandri reviewed the statistics from last year's hunt and talked about reporting from the State. Several residents of Comstock Court have sent letters of concern regarding hunting in their neighborhood. Noelle Sherman, 18 Comstock Court, read her letter. Jay Pen, 22 Comstock Court, commented on the hunter who used his private property for access to the hunt property. There was a discussion about different options for access and the importance of including Comstock Court in the hunt.

Bob Hebert moved to remove the 6 acres on Comstock Court for hunting

in the 2023-2024 season, leaving 20 acres for hunting. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

3. Old Branchville Road – 14.32 Acre Property Donation

Jim Coyle gave an overview of the property and confirmed that the Conservation Commission would like to accept the donation.

The next steps include a phase 1 study, an official letter of donation from the family, an A24 Referral from Planning & Zoning, and a Public Hearing and Town Meeting.

Sean Connelly moved to set a Public Hearing on September 20, 2023 and a Town Meeting on October 11, 2023, to accept the donation of 14.32 acres of land on Old Branchville Road. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Beverly Rogers, 158 Danbury Rd, commented that two deer blinds were found on the property during a site walk.

4. Wittman Property Discussion

Ridgefield purchased the Wittman Property and now needs to decide if it should be transferred to the Conservation Commission as open space in perpetuity. There was a discussion about the environmental issues that cows on the property will present.

Bob Hebert moved to place the jurisdiction of the Wittman Property from the Town of Ridgefield to the Ridgefield Conservation Commission. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

5. Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) Resolution

The Ridgefield Ordinance needs to be updated from a weighted vote to one town, one vote.

Maureen Kozlark moved to set a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting on September 20, 2023, for the Town of Ridgefield ordinance update regarding the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) one town one-vote resolution. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

6. Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Resolution

The EMPG is a grant that goes toward the Office of Emergency Management for Ridgefield.

Bob Hebert moved to approve the resolution for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0

7. Tax Collector Refunds

Bob Hebert moved to approve the tax collector refunds as submitted \$7,636.61. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Sean Connelly moved to adjourn the Special Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:44pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.