

APPROVED MINUTES



MINUTES Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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**Meeting
June 20, 2022 at 7 P.M.**

Present: Roberta Barbieri James Coyle Jack Kace Erik Keller
Peter Nichols Jean Linville Kitsey Snow Allan Welby

Absent: Jim Liptack, Matt Sharp

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

Mr. Coyle asked for the follow agenda items to be added:

- Under Enforcement Actions, 152 Barry Ave and Little Fox Lane
- Under Open Space, Tiger Hollow OS Trail
- Under McKeon Farm, mowing of Lauzun

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add agenda items.
Vote 8:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 8-0

2. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

152 Barry Ave

Mr. Hally has spoken with the homeowner and they have agreed to comply and clean up. Mr. Hally will write up official warning with work to be done with a deadline and schedule another site inspection date.

Little Fox Hill Lake

Mr. Hally informed the commission about dumping across from 30 Rustic road The owner of 30 Rustic road is cleaning up the trash and has provided pictures of possible violators. Mr. Coyle will contact the police department and file a complaint.

3. COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Coyle congratulated Ms. Barbieri for being sworn in as a new member and informed the commission we have posted the ad for new applicants to apply by July 8th.

4. OPEN SPACE

4.1 Declaration of Open Space

Mr. Coyle updated the commission on the ongoing due diligence in response to one select persons questions on nine parcels. Mr. Hally has provided a further detailed description of the nine parcels, which Mr. Coyle will submit to BOS prior to their next meeting.

4.2 Tiger Hollow OS Trail

Mr. Nichols was asked by Chris Tait (Head of RHS Science Dept) and Jake Greenwood (Principal RHS) if the commission would allow them to put a trail into open space that is located on the east side of Tiger

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Hollow to allow class groups to investigate outdoor habitats that would include vernal pools and wetlands. The commission is behind this idea 100%. Mr. Coyle will consult with Mr. Marconi on how to proceed.

5. MCKEON FARM

5.1 Fence Update

Mr. Coyle informed the commission that the fencing project will be paid out of the capital budget and regular budget lines this Friday. Mr. Coyle is waiting on a proposal to complete the fence along Old Stagecoach and will submit to the commission at the next meeting.

5.2 Parking Update

Mr. Coyle let the commission know he is waiting on an assessment from Dave Buccitti with the Highway Department.

5.3 Invasive Species Mitigation

Ms. Barbieri met with the contractor to get a proposal for removing invasives on both sides of the rock walls. She is waiting for a proposal for the following sections; top of Old Stagecoach, end of private landowner's property down to the opening to our parking area, opening of parking area further down the road to end of the first meadow as well as a cost to maintain each area on yearly basis.

5.4 Mowing Lauzun

Mr. Coyle discussed when to inform Carlos to begin mowing. The commission agreed to start no earlier than 8/1 for the Lauzun field and leave 25% un-mowed this year and to be reassessed next year. In addition we will request Carlos to mow the upper meadow.

6. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Snow and Dr. Linville remarked on how successful the collaboration with the High School, Weir Farm and Woodcock Nature Center has been with the recent Bio Blitz event. Ms. Linville hopes to be compiling data soon. Ms. Snow listed upcoming events: moth walk 6/23, butterfly walk 8/6, late August wildflower walk, fall bird migration, and a fungi walk.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session Vote 8:0 to discuss potential litigation.

Returned to public meeting 8:31pm.

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Coyle let the commission know we are getting close to finalizing the Summer Newsletter. There will be two issues: a conservation newsletter and a special issue pertaining to the NRI update.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby gave an update on the purple martin activity at McKeon. There will be an upcoming banding event of the new colony of 20 birds and 17 nests; he noted this was one of the fastest colonies established.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

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June 28 – Keller
July 12 - Kace

June 23 – Linville
July 14 – Liptack

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nothing new to report.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 8:51 P.M. Vote: 8:0.