

APPROVED MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

Meeting October 03, 2022 at 7PM

Present:	Roberta Barbieri	James Coyle	Jack Kace	Erik Keller
	Peter Nichols	Matt Sharp	Jean Linville	Kitsey Snow
	Allan Welby	Jim Liptack	Benjamin Nissim	

Absent:

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 9:0

2. SPECTACLE LANE EASEMENT SWAP

Joe Mirra with Pyramid Homes explained his proposal for a reconfiguration of a conservation easement at Wilton Road East and Spectacle Lane. Mr. Coyle will reach out to the Town's Counsel and discuss the easements. The RCC is open to the reconfiguration, however will need the council to weigh in on the current deed restrictions and confirm before approval from the RCC can be determined. The RCC will make a plan to walk the property in the coming weeks along with the IWB.

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Mr. Coyle gave an update on the two enforcement actions:

- 162 Old West Mountain Road
The violator has not responded by the October 1 due date and has asked for an extension to November 1. RCC will be moving the NOV to court proceedings if the November 1st extension deadline is not met.
- 258 West Mountain Road
RCC's enforcement committee met with Mr. Flashner last week. It was determined that the previous owner installed the fence and posts on RCC property and not Mr. Flashner. Mr. Flashner will remedy the remainder of his NOV. RCC will work with Andy Hally on the best path forward to remove the fence posts on RCC property.

3. OPEN SPACE

3.1 BS Property Trails

Mr. Sharp will arrange another site visit for the proposed trails at Pine Mountain in Spring, Summer and Fall.

3.2 Trail Closure

Ms. Snow spoke with Mr. Rubbio and Ms. Draper to address trails in Hemlock Hills, Pine Mountain and Sarah Bishop possible trail closings. Ms. Draper has a ten-point system of to assess trails for possible closer. The trail committee (Mr. Liptack, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Sharp) will meet with Ms. Draper over zoom.

3.3 Parking Pine Mountain

No update at this time.

4. NATIVE PLANT POLICY

Congratulations to Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Snow on the passing of the Native Plants Policy. The policy was approved by the BOS. Ridgefield is one of the first towns in CT to have a native plants policy to mandate 100% native plants on all town property. RCC will upload the most recent list of Native Plants to the RCC website.

Ms. Barbieri is looking into the possibility of goats being used to treat some of the invasives on RCC property, pending more due diligence and logistical research.

5. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Linville gave an update and hopes to have revisions of the NRI maps by our next meeting for review.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Tree Committee reached out to Ms. Snow in regards to their American Chestnut study and a proposal to plant 50 chestnut trees at Mckeeon Farm (the study will track the sapling's growth to see which ones can survive and resist disease). Plantings would take place next Spring or Fall.

Mr. Keller is in the process of updating the RCC Fall Newsletter, which will be sent out in a couple of weeks, only waiting for the Open Space Declaration from the BOS.

8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

October 11 - Nichols
October 25 - Sharp

IWB

October 13 – Barbieri
October 27 – Kace

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle mentioned property owners of 207 West Mountain Road are interested in exploring options for their 17 acres of largely grasslands. The owners are exploring all options at the moment. RCC would love to keep the property in its current condition and acquire as open space. RCC will schedule a time to walk the property. Mr. Coyle to reach out to the property owner and First Selectman to discuss possible paths forward.

Mr. Coyle updated the Open Space Inventory and will send it around again to the RCC for comments and questions.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M. Vote: 9 :0.