

## APPROVED MINUTES

### MINUTES

## Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • [conservation@ridgefieldct.org](mailto:conservation@ridgefieldct.org)



**Meeting November 14, 2022 at 7PM**

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

Absent: Eric Keller, Jean Linville

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

---

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 31, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0

---

### 2. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### 2.1 Goats

Ms. Barbieri updated the RCC on the pilot goat invasive species removal program. The program is going well, however Ms. Barbieri mentioned next time RCC will begin the process earlier in the season. There is less vegetation and the goats only eat the greens and not the woody stems. The goats are making it much easier to gain access to areas for manual removal of the woody stems/root systems.

---

### 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### 3.1 Potential Litigation

#### 3.2 Property Acquisition

Upon motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session at 7:06pm Vote 9:0.

Returned to public meeting 7:42pm.

---

### 4. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Coyle sent around proposed committee assignments to the RCC for review. Mr. Liptack proposed adding a McKeon committee whose purpose would be long range goals for the property and to develop a management plan. Mr. Nichols, Mr. Welby, Ms. Snow, and Mr. Nissim volunteered for the committee. Mr. Coyle mentioned that the RCC will need to work with the IWB to set up the Flood and Erosion Control Board. This may require a change in the Town charter. Mr. Coyle will do more research and report back.

---

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Liptack suggested to run a campaign, Pumpkins for Wildlife. This would be an informational campaign to the community, instead of throwing pumpkins in the trash, throw them in the woods.

Mr. Sharp noted that four deer stands were found in Pine Mountain. Mr. Sharp located the stands and sent to the Deer committee for removal.

Ms. Snow is ready to seed 3,000 sq ft of the pollinator garden at McKeon. The wild flower mix would cost around \$300.

Motion was made (Nichols), seconded (Barbieri) to approve up to \$300 to purchase seed for the McKeon pollinator garden. Vote 9:0

Mr. Coyle mentioned that the Assessor's office does have a street address for McKeon Farm. RCC will order a sign and post to mark the entrance.

Mr. Nichols will be ordering hats for the rangers with the new RCC logo.

Mr. Coyle will follow up on parking at Pine Mountain and McKeon with the Highway department.

---

## 6. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

### P&Z

November 22 - Nichols

December 13 - Barbieri

### IWB

December 8 – Nichols

December 22 – Linville

---

## 7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle reworked the annual expense budget to add more to the summer workers line item (4 people at \$20/hour) which will increase the RCC's annual expense budget ask for the next fiscal year.

The capital budget request ask will increase for fencing at McKeon and an additional \$10,000 for invasive species management goat program, Ms. Barbieri to provide a write up.

---

## ADJOURNMENT

**UPON** motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M. Vote: 9:0.