

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting April 10, 2023 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri Erik Keller Jean Linville Jim Liptack
Peter Nichols Matt Sharp Kitsey Snow Allan Welby

Absent: Jim Coyle, Jack Kace, Benjamin Nissim
Erik Keller called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add update on summer workers and mowing of McKeon as agenda items. Vote: 8:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0 Roberta abstained

2. TREE COMMITTEE VACANCY

The RCC asked to have a response from Ms. Dunnington by tonight's meeting, April 10. We have no response.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to hold off advertising the open vacancy until the next meeting April 24. Vote: 8:0

3. MCKEON VISION COMMITTEE (MVC)

3.1. Invasives Removal

Ms. Barbieri will work with Fat and Sassy goats to maximize their next Spring visit at McKeon and locate them opposite slope of the stream and cover a larger area than the previous Fall visit. It was discussed that maybe in the future there could be a hybrid use for the goats. In areas very difficult to access the goats could be sent in first to clear and open access.

UPON motion duly made (Snow), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to bring the goats back for Spring and coordinate with the farm. Vote: 8:0

3.2. Chestnut Tree Project

Mr. Nichols met with the president of the American Chestnut Tree project and walked the area of interest at McKeon. An area was identified around the Old Stage Coach side of McKeon. Mr. Nichols will provide a project plan in the coming weeks as to what is required and what will be provided from the Chestnut Tree organization.

3.3 Pollinator Garden Sign

Mr. Keller and Ms. Snow put together the sign for the pollinator garden.

UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve \$110 for the pollinator garden sign. Vote: 7:1

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

4.1 Annual Meeting

The RCC discussed the expenses associated with the annual meeting.

UPON motion duly made (Snow), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the purchase of 50 trees/shrubs which will approximately cost \$1000, and circulate a list to understand invitees, for the purchase of food and drinks. Vote: 8:0

4.2 Newsletter

The RCC agreed that the newsletter is ready to email.

5. SUMMER WORKERS

Mr. Sharp has two accepted offers so far and is looking for two more. Ms. Snow will reach out to someone that expressed interest.

6. MOWING MCKEON

Mr. Nichols will meet with Steve Main to get a quote to mow upper, lower and Lauzen at McKeon Farm. Ms. Snow to also ask Frank at the farm to see if he could help with any of those areas.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nichols updated the RCC on trees and bridges that have been repaired. He has also been given more antique items for the farm equipment exhibit.

Mr. Sharp is hiking the boy scout trails this Saturday at 8am, he will send out an email to commissioners. He has been contacted by a Scout that would like to work with the Fire Chief to number some of the trails in Pine Mountain and Hemlock Hills to help lost hikers.

Ms. Barbieri asked if there had been any response from property owners on Florida Refuge in regards to bamboo. None to date. She proposed Florida Refuge as the next parking improvement project. We will post the upcoming Earth Day Expo on the RCC Facebook page. Confirmed the meeting with the Parks and Rec department is April 19th at 2pm.

12. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

April 18 – Linville

May 02 – Snow

IWB

April 13 – Liptack

April 27 – Nichols

13. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Keller gave an update on the ongoing enforcement action on West Mountain Road. The RCC will most likely go into executive session to discuss in May. He was also able to order 12 trees to plant in McKeon's apple orchard.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M. Vote: 8:0.