

## 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 June 19 2023 at 7PM

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

Absent: Jim Coyle

Jack Kace called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

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#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 6:0 Mr. Keller and Mr. Liptack abstained.

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#### 2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Kace stated that the RCC vacancy has been posted and we have had a few applicants already.

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#### 3. SHADOW LAKE DAM

Jake Muller responded to the RCC with the most recent inspection report. The dam will be up for inspection soon and he will let us know when that will be scheduled. Mr. Kace noted that Mr. Muller's name is listed as the owner's representative and that there were 9 recommendations noted on the most recent inspection report.

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#### 4. MAIN STREET TREE PROJECT

Mr. Keller and Ms. Barbieri reported there is general agreement from the Main Street Tree Committee for all natives and straight cultivars. There are only a certain number of state approved nurseries and the selection will be limited.

The commission did note that the sycamore trees do not look healthy this year and will keep an eye out for any research on their health.

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#### 5. BLAZES IN RIDGEFIELD TRAILS

Mr. Liptack will coordinate with the Ridgefield Running Company regarding volunteers to help blaze trails.

**UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that Mr. Liptack will coordinate the re-blazing of trails with Meghan and the Ridgefield Running Company. Approved 9-0.

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#### 6. PIERREPONT MAP

The Ridgefield Running Company would love to have more maps that show the trails on all our linked Open Space. The RCC will look into possibly adding more maps to Avenza with links on our website and will reach out to Dave Cronin as he has the original files.

## 7. NATIVE PLANT POLICY

Mr. Keller sent around the Native Plant Policy 2.0 for RCC's review. He will move forward to send to the BOS for final approval. Once approved, the RCC will construct a Town wide notification plan.

**UPON** motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Keller), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the revised version of the native plant policy. Approved 9-0.

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## 8. eBIKES

Mr. Nissim reviewed the state statues regarding ebikes. There are no regulations on Class 1 and 2, however Class 3 bikes are not allowed by the State on trails. The RCC will reach out to the NRVt to see if they have had any e bike usage. In the meantime, the RCC will create language to amend our open space use rules eliminating all ebikes from Open Space trails.

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## 9. MCKEON VISION COMMITTEE (MVC)

### 9.1. Invasives Removal

The RCC discussed the areas the goats and the summer workers had cleared from invasives, which resulted in realizing there is a need for a plan to understand the overall long-term goal in tending to these areas. Ms. Barbieri will put together a proposal outlining labor, costs and plants needed to keep these areas in manageable condition.

### 9.2. Chestnut Tree Project

Mr. Nissim reviewed the proposed contract and insurance requirements. The Chestnut Tree organization does not currently have liability insurance. Mr. Nissim will follow up with their representative regarding the insurance.

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## 10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby asked about the West Mountain Road property, trying to understand who is responsible for maintenance. Also, he reported that banding of the purple martins will take place in a couple of weeks and the bander will now be able to tag a couple with a GPS tracker. There are now 84 eggs in the martin houses.

Mr. Nichols is finishing up the wood signs needed for Pine Mountain. Also, he shared the Titicus River research posters the RHS students were working on. The trail down to the Mopus River on the High School property will need to run through the IWB for approval. Lastly the NRVt archeologist will be borrowing our brush hog to clear around 1k feet.

Mr. Keller is working on the Newsletter that will be sent out by the end of the month.

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## 11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

### **P&Z**

June 20 – Kace  
July 5 – Liptack

### **IWB**

June 8 – Nissim  
June 22 – Linville

## 12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nothing to report.

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**ADJOURNMENT UPON** motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M. Vote: 9:0.