

# 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 July 24 2023 at 7PM

**Present:** Roberta Barbieri      Jim Coyle      Jack Kace      Erik Keller  
Pete Nichols      Jim Liptack      Pete Nichols      Benjamin Nissim  
Matt Sharp      Allan Welby

Absent: Jean Linville

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. Upon motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri) to add property acquisition to the agenda. Vote 9:0

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#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of July 5, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 7:0 Kace and Nichols abstain.

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#### 2. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Matt Archer

Matt Archer, an Eagle Scout with Troop 116 presented his final presentation on the new dock on Shadow Lake. Mr. Archer showed images of how the work was complete and images of the final dock. The commission expressed gratitude for the work and signed off on the final document.

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#### 3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The town has seized 7 1/2 acres next to Sturgis Park, this piece of property will be added to Sturgis Park and add to the total acreage of open space.

A property owner is interested in donating around 14 acres of land off Old Branchville Road. Mr. Coyle is waiting to hear back from the town attorney on next steps. Adjacent to this piece of property are DOT owned parcels, Mr. Coyle will contact the DOT to see if there is an opportunity to acquire.

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#### 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (enforcement)

No need to go into executive session. The plan that was submitted by the property owner has been reviewed and rejected by the RCC. A revised plan has been sent to the violator.

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#### 5. BLAZES IN RIDGEFIELD TRAILS

##### 6. PIERREPONT MAP

Mr. Liptack spoke with the Ridgefield Running Company. The RRC is interested in helping blaze trails and help raise funds. The RCC will explore a donation link on the website. The Pierrepont map did not come up in conversation but the RCC will look into updating these maps.

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#### 7. PINE MOUNTAIN ROAD ACCESS

A property owner is concerned about the maintenance trail access to the Boy Scout property. Mr. Liptack will reach out to understand concerns.

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## 8. EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Mr. Nichols purchase a used weedwhacker for \$100 for the RCC to use as the current weedwhacker is not working properly.

**UPON** motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the \$100 reimbursement to Mr. Nichols for the used weedwhacker purchase. Approved 8-0. Nichols abstained.

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## 9. MCKEON VISION COMMITTEE

### 9.1 Chestnut Tree Project

Mr. Nissim is continuing to work with the head of the Chestnut Tree Foundation; however, the organization does not have liability insurance which prevents the RCC from moving forward with the project at this point.

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## 10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keller walked main street with Tom McManus in regards to the Main Street Project. The tree warden will visit local nurseries and report what natives are available for planting.

Mr. Welby reported on the purple martin activity: close to 100 babies over the past 2 years, 72 babies were banded this past weekend.

Ms. Barbieri mentioned Ms. Linville's NRI Story Board presentation at the library this past weekend was very successful. Also, there is a petition going around to reduce the use of gas-powered leaf blowers to only Fall and Spring.

Mr. Nissim's father is a member of the Westport Community Garden, which is at risk of being turned into a parking lot. He is looking for any expert help in regards to protecting community garden/pollinator pathways.

Mr. Coyle mentioned the current storage facility being constructed on Route 7, which is located on a steep slope. The town does not have a clear regulation for steep slopes. Mr. Nissim will begin to draft an ordinance and Mr. Coyle will reach out to Planning and Zoning to work through this process.

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## 11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

### **P&Z**

July 18 – Keller  
September 5 – Hogan

### **IWB**

July 27 – Sharp  
August 24 – Nichols

## 12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Nothing to report.

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**ADJOURNMENT UPON** motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 8:19P.M. Vote: 9:0