

## 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 October 16 2023 at 7PM

**Present:** Jim Coyle      Jana Hogan      Jack Kace      Jean Linville  
Jean Linville      Pete Nichols      Benjamin Nissim      Matt Sharp  
Allan Welby

Absent: Roberta Barbieri, Jim Liptack

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**UPON** motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add Old West Mountain vegetative management requirements as item 4. Vote: 9:0

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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 October 2, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0 Keller abstained.

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#### 2. EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION – Logan Tole

Logan Tole, an Eagle Scout with Troop 76, did his final presentation on Shadow Lake Dam bridge repair. Mr. Tole did a fantastic job on the bridge repairs and was able to remove some invasives.

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#### 3. CORNERSTONE GARDENS

Ms. Berger was unable to attend and will be added to the next agenda.

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#### 4. OLD W. MOUNTAIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Next phase of the open space violation process will be for the property owner to submit a vegetation management plan for their proposed work. The RCC has prepared a letter to the property owners indicating the requirements of the plan.

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#### 5. MCKEON TREES

Mr. Keller and crew planted 12 trees at McKeon Orchard.

**UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED to spend up to \$500 for protective material to be placed around the trees as the existing pallets are falling apart. Vote: 9:0

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#### 6. NEWSLETTER

RCC reviewed the newsletter and will send out this week through email and post to different media outlets in Town.

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#### 7. NRI UPDATE

RCC is in the final stages of updating the NRI and is almost complete. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Keller will present final conclusions and recommendations to the BOS at one of their next meetings.

**UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$600 for purchase of the NRI books to distribute to libraries, BOS, and others. Vote: 9:0

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**8. WEST MOUNTAIN RD OS**

Several commissioners met at the property. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller will present a development plan including parking, timeframe, and costs and make recommendations to RCC.

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**9. FLORIDA REFUGE MOTOR BIKES**

Recent complaints regarding motor bikes on trails causing erosion. RCC will install signs and send a letter to property owners.

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**10. AQUARION, POSSIBLE VIOLATION 508 N. SALEM**

Mr. Nichols informed RCC about a possible violation off North Salem Rd. Mr. Nichols and RCC's CEO went out to the property to inspect and spoke with the highway department. The highway department will have the construction company move the debris away from the foundation and only use gravel.

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**11. NATIVE PLANTS**

Mr. Keller and Ms. Barbieri along with Parks and Recreation went in front of the BOS to modify the native plant policy presented earlier in the year. The changes were approved by the BOS. Ms. Hogan will review the website pages re native plants and invasive species.

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**12. ANNUAL APPEAL**

Mr. Coyle will reach out to IT regarding an online donation option. RCC will update the letter and email around for review.

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**13. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Linville brought up the idea of creating signs for OS regarding dogs being on a leash; RCC will look into.

Mr. Sharp reported that the scout had begin work on the Pine Mountain Kiosk.

Mr. Nissim followed up on the Chestnut Tree project, the company is working on its insurance liability and hopefully we can move forward with the project once they have approval. Mr. Nissim will report back.

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**10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE****P&Z**

October 3 – Hogan  
October 17 – Sharp

**IWB**

October 12 – Liptack  
October 26 – Barbieri

**8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

No remarks.

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**ADJOURNMENT UPON** motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Nissim), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. Vote: 9:0.