

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting October 30 2023 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri Jim Coyle Jana Hogan Jack Kace
Jean Linville Pete Nichols Matt Sharp
Allan Welby

Absent: Benjamin Nissim

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add McKeon wall invasives removal as item 4. Vote: 9:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 7:0 Barbieri and Liptack abstained.

2. EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION – Danny Butala

Danny Butala, an Eagle Scout with Troop 431, presented his initial proposal on his project to install Pine Mountain junction point markers. The RCC discussed some additional implementations such as the use of wooden posts (instead of trees), QR Codes, and some other items.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve Danny Butala's proposal funded by his family provided the new amendments discussed. Approved 9-0.

3. CORNERSTONE GARDENS

Ms. Cece Berger asked about using the fenced in area around the well head instead of her current location. The RCC explained that that would not be possible as the NRCS had placed serious restrictions on the use of the area around the well head. However, the RCC approved Ms. Berger's use of a vehicle to transport heavy loads to and from her current location on the property.

4. MCKEON WALL INVASIVES

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nichols met with a contractor to get an estimate to remove invasives from the stone walls at McKeon, located along Ridgebury Road, which would include invasive removal of the front and back of the stone walls.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$6,900 to remove invasives on McKeon stone walls by the end of this month through use of the discretionary fund. Approved 9-0. Repair of the stone walls would be done after the invasives removal under separate contract.

5. RCC TRUCK

The RCC truck is at the end of its useful life and will need to be an item to list in the capital budget request. Mr. Sharp will get details of the vehicle. Mr. Nichols indicated that other equipment such as the riding mower and a brushhog were needing repair or replacement. The RCC will include all this in the capital budget request due December 1.

6. FENCE ON CONSERVATION EASEMENT

RCC has had an inquiry as to placement of a fence on a conservation easement along George Washington Highway. Mr. Coyle will let the property owners know they will need a survey in order to understand exact placement of fence.

7. WHITMAN PRESERVE AND ACCESS TO ROUND POND

Mr. Sharp will meet with Dave Buccitti to get state permit and approval for road access to a parking area on the new Whitman Preserve. Mr. Keller mentioned that the new access to Round Pond is several hundred feet down the road. They will work up a proposal for the parking area and begin clearing a pathway for pond access from the road.

8. ANNUAL APPEAL

The annual appeal letter is being reworked and will be mailed out by the end of this month. The online donation button on the RCC web site is up and running. However, details need to be worked out with IT regarding the level of charges by Donately and Stripe and getting funding reports from both groups.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keller reported that the NRI is complete and available to order at the RCC office or at Books on the Common.

Mr. Nichols asked about 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. Mr. Nichols also posted signs for no motorized bikes at the entrances of Florida Refuge.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

November 8 – Nissim
November 21 – Sharp

IWB

November 9 – Welby
November 14 – Keller

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle is working with Mr. Kace and Mr. Nissim on the language for a steep slope ordinance. He has also revised the Open Space Inventory for 2023 to include the 40 acres of new acquisitions.

The opening for the alternate member will close November 10th. RCC will post on its Facebook page and email out with the Fall Newsletter.

Florida Rd tree dumping mess is still on the side of the road, Mr. Sharp will see if scouts or volunteers are able to clean up.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M. Vote: 9:0.