

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org



Meeting November 13 2023 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri Jim Coyle Jana Hogan Jack Kace
Erik Keller Jean Linville Jim Liptack Pete Nichols
Benjamin Nissim Matt Sharp Allan Welby

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Coyle), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add data development as item #6 to the agenda. 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 30, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 9:0

2. EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION – Aiden McGrath

Aiden McGrath, an Eagle Scout with Troop 116, presented his initial proposal on his project to replacing a 16' by 3' bridge and improving the trail that connects the beginning of the of the Colonial Heights trail with the rest of the trail.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve Aiden McGrath's proposal funded by his family. Approved 9-0.

3. CONSERVATION COMMISSION ALTERNATE VACANCY SELECTION

3.1 Interviews

RCC interviewed a 4 candidates; Jack Gordon, Anthony Markert, Tommy McCarthy, Ian Dow,

3.2 Executive Session

UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into executive session. Vote: 9:0

Returned from to public at 8:15pm.

RCC voted and it was resolved that Anthony Markert should replace Benjamin Nissim as an alternate vacancy. Vote: 7:2

4. WITTMAN PRESERVE PROPERTY UPDATE

Mr. Keller and Mr. Sharp met with Dave Buccitti regarding the permit process which will have to go through the state in order to create the parking area access on the property. The parking area will be roughly 40 X 60 for around 5 to 7 vehicle spaces.

Mr. Keller is waiting to hear back from Aquarian to stake the property lines for access to Round Pond.

5. NATIVE PLANT POLICY

Mr. Keller and Ms. Barbieri will reach out to various groups to update their Native Plant procedures. Ms. Barbieri will create a document for presentation.

6. DATA DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Coyle is working on a variety of efforts and making them consistent across the board; Open Space Inventory, RCC Website, GIS system, Sustainable CT, and the Walk Book for 2024.

It was also agreed that trails at Blacksmith Ridge, Bobby's Court, and Topstone would be abandoned given their current condition. Also, a small portion of the trail at Levy Park would be abandoned as it is on private property.

7. ANNUAL APPEAL

The Annual Appeal letter has been sent to the printers, it will take around a two- week turnaround time to mail out to Ridgefield residents and businesses.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby and Mr. Nichols would like more RCC members to join the McKeon subcommittee. Mr. Coyle will review the subcommittee appointments.

Mr. Keller, Ms. Linville and Mr. Coyle will be presenting the NRI to the BOS on Wednesday.

Mr. Nissim will continue work on the steep slopes initiatives as a concerned citizen.

Mr. Nichols asked if the Chestnut organization has any update. Mr. Nissim to follow up.

Mr. Sharp reported a drainage issue on Hemlock Hills on the orange trail. RCC is grateful to Mr. Buccitti as he took care of the issue right away.

Ms. Barbieri had the third and final clean up at Aldrich Park, 35 people showed up to help remove invasives.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

November 21 – Sharp
December 5 – Barbieri

IWB

November 14 – Keller
December 28 – Linville

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle reminded the commission to turn in any capital budget request items by the December 1st deadline.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. Vote: 9:0.