

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting December 11 2023 at 7PM

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

Attendance: Anthony Markert

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add Boy Scouts, ScoutsCan presentation and Signage and QR Codes to the agenda. Vote: 8:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0

2. SCOUTSCAN PRESENTATION

Scout Danny Butala presented the RCC with a donation of \$700 from their ScoutsCan recycling program. The RCC thanked the scouts for everything they do and all the hard work they put into projects throughout the year.

3. RCC OFFICER ELECTIONS

The election was held for RCC officers for 2024.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to elect Erik Keller as Vice Chair/Treasurer and James Coyle as the Chair. Vote: 9:0

4. RCC MEMBER IDENTIFICATION

Mr. Nichols brought up an issue of members being identified if they have to access private property or out on a trail for clearing, etc. The RCC will look into bright orange identification vest, business cards, and laminated identification for all members.

5. THRIFT SHOP AND LEWIS FUND GRANT

Mr. Coyle asked the members for project suggestions. The Thrift Shop grant submission is due January 31 and the Lewis Fund Grant submission is due January 19. Write-ups are due the 15th and 1st of January to Mr. Coyle who will complete the submissions. Some suggestions that came up were clearing the stream at Lauzen at McKeon Farm (Mr. Sharp to get an estimate), walk book preparation and printing expenses, Cameron's Line educational opportunities, and Eagle Scout projects.

6. PROPOSED 54 KETCHAM PROPERTY SUBDIVISION

The RCC has been made aware of a proposed property subdivision including donation of open space. However, the space is not contiguous to any of our existing open space and provides no access. Several options were discussed that included payment in lieu of open space, provision of an easement to access the open space, and

or relocation of the open space so it is contiguous to existing open space and usable. Planning and Zoning would like comments back by mid-January.

7. NRI LECTURES

Mr. Keller and Ms. Linville are scheduled to present on the NRI at the Library January 11th and at the P&Z meeting December 19th. Advertising should include the Patch and on Facebook. Mr. Keller suggested having RCC members present small portions of the NRI every other month at the library to continue to get the word out. Ms. Hogan will create a schedule to coordinate with NRWA, Woodcock, and RCC members so all entities can advertise more effectively.

8. WINTER NEWSLETTER

Mr. Keller is working on the Winter Newsletter and would like RCC members to think of some hidden favorite spots or trails to highlight and to provide other materials.

9. SIGNAGE AND QR CODES

The RCC will look into creating a paid account to create and track QR Codes for trail maps at the entrances of Open Space trails. The RCC needs a consistent approach to signage at its open spaces. Mr. Liptack will direct this effort. Mr. Kace suggested a trial run with one trail to see how much of a need.

10. CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGETS FY 25

Mr. Coyle is working on the capital and expense budgets. The capital budget has been submitted, but he will need comments on the expense budget by tomorrow for submission by December 13.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby mentioned sending a letter to Old Sib homeowner to see if possibility of donating his parcel to the RCC. He also mentioned that the platform at the Ligi Way boardwalk is overlooking invasive phragmites. Mr. Coyle will mention this to the First Selectperson.

Mr. Liptack reported that Avenza now has four additional Open Space maps you can access in their portal.

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nichols will be walking the Boy Scout property, meeting at Pine Mountain parking lot Friday at 1p to develop GPS coordinates for mapping of trails on the property.

Mr. Markert mentioned Dave Beers would be interested in mapping out another property and provide high level suggestions, possibly Florida Refuge. Mr. Markert will get a date and report back.

11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z
December 19 – Kace

IWB
December 14 – Keller
December 28 – Linville

12. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 8:56 P.M. Vote: 9:0.