

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting December 12, 2022 at 7PM

Present: James Coyle Jack Kace Eric Keller Jim Liptack
Peter Nichols Benjamin Nissim Matt Sharp Kitsey Snow
Allan Welby

Absent: Roberta Barbieri, Jean Linville

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 7:0 Kitsey Snow Abstained

2. Officer Elections

Mr. Keller nominated Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace to serve as officers of RCC. Other nominations were requested and none were made.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that Mr. Coyle be reelected to Chair and Dr. Kace be reelected to Vice Chair and Treasurer. Vote: 8:0

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS - Executive Session

3.1 162 Old West Mountain Road

3.2 258 West Mountain Road

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session. Vote 8:0 to discuss enforcement actions.

Returned to public meeting 8:09pm.

4. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

The RCC discussed the opportunity to acquire 17.5 acres of Open Space on West Mountain Road and the decision to move forward at the recent Public Meeting. A Town Meeting is planned on December 19, for a vote on spending \$1.4 million for the purchase.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the RCC will contribute up to \$250,000 to the purchase. Vote: 8:0

5. THRIFT SHOP GRANT REQUEST

6. LEWIS GRANT CONSIDERATION

In regards to agenda items #5 & #6: A number of possibilities for grant request were discussed including defraying part of the contribution for Open Space acquisition; additional bird housing at McKeon; invasives removal, native tree planting in the apple orchard at McKeon. Both grant requests must be submitted mid-late January and individuals were asked to provide written summaries and cost estimates.

7. NRI UPDATE

A number of progress meetings were held on various aspects of the NRI, and we are moving forward towards completion in the Spring.

8. MCKEON PARKING LOT

9. PINE MOUNTAIN PARKING

Both projects need to be discussed with the Highways Department. Mr. Nichols will take the lead in contacting Dave Buccitti.

10. MEETING SCHEDULE

A revision to the RCC annual meeting schedule for January was made.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the annual meeting schedule be amended from Monday, January 2 to Wednesday, January 4. Vote: 9:0

11. NEW BUSINESS

A resident on Lookout Drive has offered to donate a ½-acre parcel for the RCC to consider.

The recent videotaping incident in Town Hall was discussed as well as the procedures to be used if a similar incident were to occur at the RCC office.

12. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

December 13 - Barbieri

December 27 - Kace

IWB

December 22 – Linville

13. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The recently approved Town Declaration on Open Space has been filed and implemented by the Town Clerk. Anyone searching the Town records for those parcels will be automatically notified that the parcel is protected as Open Space in perpetuity.

The Town search for a Conservation Enforcement Officer and Inland Wetland Agent continues.

The Annual OS Appeal has received about \$10,000 to date.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 9:00P.M. Vote: 9:0.