

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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



Meeting January 30, 2023 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri James Coyle Jack Kace Jean Linville
Jim Liptack Benjamin Nissim Peter Nichols Matt Sharp
Kitsey Snow Allan Welby

Absent: Eric Keller

Attendance: Ryan Bossis, Tree Committee

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2023 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 7:0 Kace Abstained

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Vote 9:0

Returned to public meeting 7:05pm.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Enforcement

i. Conservation Enforcement Officer

The RCC has had 5 applicants to date, one has been offered the position. Mr. Coyle will report back with any updates.

b. Native Plants/Invasive Species Management

i. Policy

Mr. Coyle will set up a meeting with P&R once Mr. Keller is back in town. In the meantime, the Native Plant committee will think about changes that may be needed that would allow for exceptions or variances. Meetings with other Town agencies should then follow.

ii. Lounsbury House

Ms. Snow has already been in touch with the Lounsbury House and their landscaping committee to work with them on Native Plant selection.

c. McKeon Farm Vision

i. Chestnut Tree Project

Mr. Bossis from the Tree Committee will put together an outline of the Chestnut Tree project requirements and submit to the RCC. The RCC is very interested in participating in the project.

d. Natural Resources Inventory

Ms. Linville is finalizing the NRI maps and book for review.

e. Open Space Acquisition

i. West Mountain Road

Nothing new to report.

ii. Pine Mountain Road property donation

UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the RCC accept the property donation of 2 to 4 acres and approve up to \$2,000 to research the property.

Vote: 9:0. Mr. Coyle will follow up with the BOS once several RCC commissioners have actually seen the property. Mr. Liptack and Mr. Sharp will visit the site.

f. Outreach and Education

i. Annual Meeting

The RCC will host an annual meeting, more details to come. Ms. Setterlund will supervise the effort.

g. Property Maintenance

i. OS Signage

Mr. Sharp will take care of signs and tools and has identified someone who can possibly take over the effort.

ii. OS Trail Marking

Mr. Welby will create a spreadsheet to track trail maintenance.

iii. Avenza Mapping

Mr. Liptack has been working with Avenza Mapping to offer geolocate and reference points on open space maps.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Mr. Liptack proceed to upload RCC's Open Space maps and work with Avenza. Vote: 9:0

iv. Pine Mountain Parking

Mr. Coyle & Mr. Liptack met with Rudy Marconi and Dave Buccitti. They agreed to formalize and improve the parking area with the addition of spaces.

h. Regulatory

i. OS Use Ordinance, Regulations

The regulatory committee will revisit the OS use ordinance and make any needed changes as well as set any regulations.

ii. Steep Slopes

The Committee will review other town ordinances and develop a draft document to present to P&Z.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Snow reported on the NRV meeting and mentioned a lot of complaints regarding a biking group parking in the neighborhood of Pierrepont. Mr. Sharp will check in with Mr. Molowitz and remind bikers where to park.

Ms. Barbieri addressed a property owners bamboo patch is close crossing over their property line and onto open space in the Florida Refuge. Ms. Barbieri will draft an email to share with the RCC.

Ms. Linville addressed the complaints on Fox Hill Lake, a brown substance looks to be leaking into the lake. Ms. Linville will contact Ed Briggs for sample results and consult with neighbors to conduct their own testing.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

February 7 – Liptack

February 21 – Nichols

IWB

February 9 – Nissim

February 23 – Sharp

Mr. Coyle set up a new procedure: commissioners will review the agenda for the upcoming meetings and determine if items pertain to the RCC and the need to attend. If they are not planning to attend, they should inform the Chairman of that intention.

12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The annual budget process has begun and being reviewed by department.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourned at 9:01P.M. Vote: 9:0.