

APPROVED MINUTES



DRAFT MINUTES Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting
April 11, 2022 at 7 P.M.

Present	Roberta Barbieri	Jim Liptack	Allan Welby
	Kitsey Snow	Erik Keller	Matt Sharp
	Jean Linville	Peter Nichols	
	James Coyle	Daniel C. Levine	

Absent: Jack Kace

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of March 28, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Motion passed unanimously. Vote: 7-0

2. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Round Pond Preserve

Mr. Hally, our Conservation Enforcement Officer, gave an update on an open space violation reported at Round Pond Preserve. A property owner has topped and felled trees on open space. The property owner may have assumed they had the right to do so under a scenic easement designation; however, under further investigation Mr. Hally found that the "easement of view" states no buildings or structures shall be constructed within the easement, and trees shall remain in natural condition.

Todd Flashner, a neighbor in the area also addressed his concerns for preserving the aesthetics of the area environment and property values.

The Commission agreed to issue the Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) to the property owner. Mr. Hally will also issue Notice of Violation (NOV for the wetlands violations. These notices include cease and desist to the property owner. Mr. Hally will work with the tree warden, Steve Lavatori, to determine speciation and valuation of felled and topped trees.

The Enforcement Committee will schedule a meeting with the property owner to see if a resolution can be determined.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that Mr. Hally issue the NOPV for this property. Vote: 9:0

APPROVED MINUTES

3. MCKEON FARM

3.1 Cornerstone Gardens License

Mr. Coyle has not heard back from Cece Berger. The draft Cornerstone Gardens License Agreement remains the same as the previous year.

3.2 Parking Site

Mr. Coyle met with Dave Buccitti from the Highway Department to determine quality of materials for the parking site. The Highway Department will provide and place the materials for the site.

3.3 Fencing

Mr. Coyle gave an update on the fencing project. Green Hope Landscaping will begin work along Lauzen Lane and Ridgebury Road in approximately two weeks and should complete the project within three weeks.

3.4 Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller informed the commission the Eagle Scout pollinator garden will no longer proceed at the well location; the Eagle Scout is unable to complete the project. Ms. Snow proposed that the garden area be seeded with clover instead. Mr. Keller offered to get the seed for the project.

4. PINE MOUNTAIN PARKING

Mr. Liptack brought up the parking issue at Pine Mountain. The current parking area has space for four vehicles and on occasion, there have been more than 20 vehicles. The commission discussed possible solutions. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Keller will reach out to Dave Buccitti from the Highway Department for an assessment of the area as well as options and report back to the Commission.

5. VINE CUTTING

Ms. Barbieri, Ms. Snow, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Welby met at the McKeon Farm wetland area to cut and paint invasive bittersweet vines. Ms. Barbieri is planning a wider vine cutting and painting event for April 24th.

6. WEBSITE UPDATE

Mr. Coyle mentioned that it has been a while since the Conservation's website has been overhauled. The Commission discussed some enhancements and changes that would help with volunteers and donations. Members will email any recommendations or ideas to enhance the site over the next couple of weeks.

7. MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Mr. Sharp discussed a list of current maintenance projects and asked that Commissioners update with any other projects not on the list. The Commission discussed certain tools that were no longer functioning, which need to be replaced. any new tools needed for the maintenance projects will be purchased using grant funds.

There was also a discussion about the possibility of benches in memoriam added to trails and open space. The Commission will look into putting a plan together per designated area.

APPROVED MINUTES

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Levine stated the Newsletter was complete and sent out.

9. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

Mr. Nichols cannot attend the IWB meeting on April 14, 2022. Ms. Barbieri will attend in his place. An updated meeting schedule will be sent out to the Commissioners with changes.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle mentioned the BOS meeting is this Wednesday evening. Mr. Coyle is working on the EOY budget and is waiting on a couple of invoices from plants at McKeon and from the NRI update.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:42 P.M. Vote: 9:0.