

APPROVED MINUTES



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting

April 25, 2022 at 7 P.M.

Present

Roberta Barbieri

Erik Keller

Peter Nichols

Jim Liptack

Matt Sharp

Kitsey Snow

Jack Kace

Jean Linville

James Coyle

Absent: Allan Welby / Daniel C. Levine

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 April 11, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: Yes-6 No-0 Abstain-1 (Kace).

2. NRV T

Mr. Kace discussed postponing this topic until the NRV T has finalized further details. Ms. Snow, Mr. Nichols, and Ms. Barbieri will walk the proposed location in the interim.

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Bobby's Court

Ms. Snow discussed the dumping violations at Bobby's Court that have been ongoing; Ms. Linville suggested the commission check for proper signage of the area. Ms. Snow and Mr. Nichols will set a time to view the dumping and investigate further before the CEO is tasked to take pictures of the dumping. The commission discussed the possibility of setting up cameras to further deter any one that may be continually dumping. The commission will look into putting a plan together per findings.

Round Pond Preserve

Mr. Coyle gave an update on an open space violation reported at Round Pond Preserve. The enforcement subcommittee meeting will take place this Wednesday, 4/27.

A neighbor, Mr. Flashner attended the meeting and asked to be informed and involved as much as possible. Mr. Flashner offered his property as an access way if and when needed throughout the process.

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4. MCKEON FARM

3.1 Cornerstone Gardens License

Mr. Coyle opened discussions regarding changing the term of the agreement from a one-year license to a five-year lease, as well as adding the following amendments: the licensee (now lessee) shall provide safety instruction for all attendees, licensee shall engage in organic land care practices, and licensee is permitted to use tarps to help with soil regeneration in conjunction with rotational plantings.

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the agreement between the commission and Cornerstone Gardens be renewed, with the term length change from a one-year license to a five-year lease as well as the addition of discussed amendments incorporated into the new lease agreement. Vote: 9:0

3.2 Parking Site

Mr. Coyle met with Dave Buccitti from the Highway Department. The Highway Department has dug a test hole. Based on that Highways will remove three inches of soil, and will be replacing it with larger stones.

5. VINE CUTTING

Ms. Barbieri and Mr. Nichols made great progress cutting back the invasive oriental bittersweet vines over the weekend at McKeon Farm. Ms. Barbieri will plan a glyphosate painting event in July. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Liptack discussed equipment modifications that may need to be made to the brush cutter.

6. BENNETT'S POND

Mr. Welby sent an email to the commission regarding a beaver's dam that may be affecting the water level to the main lake at Bennett's pond. Mr. Sharp will inspect the area to see if the issue remains and report back to the commission.

7. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nothing new to report.

8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

No changes at this time.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle discussed the summer intern positions and the lack of applications to date. Mr. Sharp will reach out to adjacent towns and troops for interest.

Ms. Snow reported on the latest NRI events; Spring Ephemeral Walk was a great success at Aldrich Park and the upcoming BioBlitz at Weir Farm June 11th which is a great collaboration with Woodcock Nature Center. Ms. Snow also commented on the amazing talent and hard work of all the Commission members.

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ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:40 P.M. Vote: 9:0.