

APPROVED MINUTES



DRAFT MINUTES Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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Meeting
June 6, 2022 at 7 P.M.

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

Absent:

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Erik Keller), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 7-0

2. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Nothing new to report.

3. COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Coyle announced we have a vacancy for an alternate member. The commission discussed focusing on core responsibilities, obtaining and maintaining open space. The commission will post the ad for applicants to apply.

With the current vacancy some responsibilities will shift, Mr. Nichols will communicate with the Rangers, Mr. Keller will work on the Newsletter and Mr. Coyle and the administrator will focus on the social media.

Motion made (Kitsey Snow), seconded (Kace) to move Roberta Barbieri to full commission member. Vote 9:0.

4. OPEN SPACE

Mr. Coyle updated the commission on the recent BOS meeting. The Commission presented 90+ properties for further protection as open space. Further due diligence will be submitted at the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Coyle received a request to add a walking trail on open space near Hessian Drive. The commission discussed if the trail would be accessible to the public or if only for the neighboring user. The commission members will conduct a site visit as further investigation.

5. MCKEON FARM

5.1 Fence Update

Mr. Coyle stated that the fencing project is complete along Ridgebury and Lauzen Lane. Mr. Coyle proposed completing the fence on Old Stagecoach to wrap around the apple orchard up to where it meets private property.

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Motion made (Welby), seconded (Kace) to complete the fence around the apple orchard up to \$4,000. The vote was unanimous.

5.2 Parking Update

Mr. Coyle let the Commission know he is waiting on an assessment from Dave Buccitti with the Highway Department.

5.3 Pollinator Garden

No update.

5.4 Apple Trees

Ms. Snow will work to have six crab apple trees installed in the fall to mitigate tree loss.

5.5 Invasive species mitigation

Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Snow have done a tremendous amount of clearing so far and there is still a lot more to do. Ms. Barbieri will work to get an estimate to remove 2 to 3 times a year, which will help to make the area easier to maintain.

6. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Snow and Ms. Linville updated the Commission on the upcoming event planned for the NRI. The 24-hour Bio Blitz event will take place this weekend. As a thank you to all of the volunteers, the commission will have breakfast and lunch on site. Ms. Snow and Ms. Linville will come up a recommendation stipend amount for the other volunteers who contributed a tremendous amount of time and effort to the project.

7. SUMMER WORKERS

The two summer hires started work today. Mr. Sharp has them working on the trailheads this week and Mckeon Farm will be next week. Mr. Sharp mentioned another candidate might be interested, so possibly have three summer workers this fiscal year.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made (Barbieri), Seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Commission go into Executive Session Vote 9:0 to discuss potential litigation.

Returned to public 8:30pm

9. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nothing new to report.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby mentioned it was turtle season, the commission will check with Inland/Wetlands on turtle crossing signs.

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11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

June 14 - Barbieri

June 28 - Kace

IWB

June 9 – TBD

June 23 – Linville

Ms. Snow will attend the June 9 IWB meeting. Mr. Nichols will fill in for Mr. Kace on June 28.

12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle gave an update on the application grant request for the Lewis Fund, in which the Commission received \$1,000.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 9:32 P.M. Vote: 9:0.