

APPROVED MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES



Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting September 7, 2022 at 7PM

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

Absent:

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Liptack), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 15, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 6-0 1 abstained

2. DEER COMMITTEE

Hunt Master Stefano Zandri discussed the results of the 2021-2022 hunt. Six hunters took 36 deer; 27 does and 9 bucks. The Deer Committee asked to hunt 6 additional sites, making a total of 21 sites approved for hunting. The RCC discussed the additional sites to be added to the rotation. Mr. Coyle instructed the Deer Committee to use the process which is defined on the RCC's website, to coordinate with police department especially in regards to new locations and to notify the public.

Upon motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) moved to approve the addition of 6 additional sites subject to the RCC's conditions listed on the website. Therefore, seven sites will be hunted per year for three years. 9:0

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Mr. Coyle gave an update on the two enforcement actions.

- Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace met with Town Council. We are waiting for the owners of 162 Old West Mountain Road to provide comments on the penalties that were presented within the next two weeks.
- The owner of 258 West Mountain Road will work with Andy Hally on the best path forward to remove the fence posts on RCC property.

4. OPEN SPACE

4.1 BS Property Trails

Mr. Sharp will arrange another site visit for the proposed trails at Pine Mountain in Spring, Summer and Fall.

4.2 Trail Closure

Mr. Liptack explained the closure process in opening a more sustainable trail to connect around other portions of trails that have been completely overused. Signs will be added to closed trails. Ms. Snow to follow up with Mr. Rubbio to address trails in Hemlock Hills, Pine Mountain and Sarah Bishop.

4.3 Parking Pine Mountain

Mr. Coyle to follow-up with the highway department.

5. INVASIVE SPECIES

The Invasives Policy was on the agenda at the BOS meeting September 7th. Mr. Coyle and Ms. Snow discussed the new Invasives policy, which was to be written as an ordinance versus a policy, and now has changed back to a policy. If approved by the BOS, Ridgefield will be the first town in CT to have an invasive policy to mandate 100% native plants on all town property.

6. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Linville gave the Commission an update on the story map done in partnership with Pace University.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby will have a hawk watch on 9/17 at the Ridgefield High School, more information to follow.

Mr. Welby will be using the \$4k grant from the Ridgefield Thrift Shop to install a bird feeding station at Richardson Park for the public viewing which will be active November – March.

Mr. Nichols discussed the barbed wire along the fence at Mckeen Farm and removing extra wire now that the invasives have been removed.

Mr. Nichols will give the go ahead to begin the Woodland Management Course in his backyard as well as the BS property and to report back to the Commission with findings.

Mr. Keller will be removing mugwort out at the well area in Mckeen and replacing with white and red clover. He is also going to be at the Ridgefield Library to talk about his book on 9/15 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Keller proposed keeping a centralized inventory of the condition of the RCC's trails.

8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

September 13 – Linville

September 28 - Linville

IWB

September 8 – Snow

September 22 – Welby

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle gave an update from the BOS meeting regarding the RCC's proposed Open Space Declaration. Of the roughly 1,100 acres for which we were asking for additional protection, we should receive approval for about 1,000 acres. Both Prospect Ridge and East Ridge properties (approximately 44 acres) will be removed from our Open Space Inventory.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M. Vote: 10:0.