



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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July 24, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein
Tim Bishop	Dave Cronin
Jack Kace	Dan Levine
Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow

The following members were absent: Carroll Brewster, Jim Coyle and Ben Oko.

Mr. Kace chaired the meeting in Mr. Coyle's absence. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

Chief Roche, Stefano Zandri, Bud Brown, Phil Doyle and Chris McQuilken were also in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of July 10, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. CONTINUING TOPICS

a) Great Swamp – Mr. Pilch discussed data obtained on streams running in and out of the Great Swamp. The RCC would like to invite state representatives involved in monitoring the swamp to attend an upcoming meeting.

b) Water Quality Testing – Harborwatch has agreed to come to an upcoming meeting (tbd) to discuss their testing of water quality in the swamp. Ms. Snow also suggested appropriating funds in the upcoming budget to do water testing in the Great Swamp. Mr. Bishop will provide cost projections.

c) Horse Guidelines – Ms. Snow assisted a committee proposing a new horse ordinance and provided RCC recommendations on manure storage and planting of buffers near grazing animals. Mr. Coyle will review the draft and send to BOS for consideration.

3. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep 5 – Mr. Bishop

Sep 19 – Ms. Snow

b) New & Continued Business

Ridgefield Winter Club – Developer Bud Brown described the project at 340 Peaceable Street and addressed many “misconceptions” surrounding the project. The members-only club will be open nine months each year (Sept-May) with the outdoor ice rink open five months (Nov.-March). The club will be closed June-August every year. Mr. Pilch questioned the stormwater management plan, lighting and noise, the size of septic system and suggested additional deep test pits and percolation tests be performed. Mr. Doyle, Project Architect, and Mr. Brown appreciated the input and assured the commission that recommendations will be addressed before filing the final application in one to two months.

Stormwater Regulation Rescission – Mr. Kace and Mr. Coyle met with Ms. Mucchetti and Mr. Fossi to discuss the rescission. It was agreed to begin monthly meetings to encourage better communication between the two commissions. Mr. Kace will ask that staff, (Mr. Baldelli, Ms. Peyser and Mr. Schnell), be included in the meetings. Meetings to develop the new regulation will begin in September. Mr. Pilch will call Mr. Baldelli with suggested dates.

36 Old Quarry – The application was approved and included the RCC recommendation for an additional bioretention system.

4. DEER HUNT PARCEL REQUEST – Mr. Zandri provided the wish list for 18 properties to be included in the 2017-18 deer hunt. The list includes six more areas and the addition of shotgun to the Stonecrest area compared to last year. Mr. Zandri agreed to send the RCC maps of the new areas created by Jake Muller. The RCC will ask the rangers for feedback on hunting the new parcels. Results will be compiled and the list will be discussed with the Deer Committee at the August 21, 2017 RCC meeting.

5. OPEN SPACE

Ms. Snow reported that the shed is up at McKeon and will be painted this week by the summer workers. In addition, Ms. Snow mentioned that two parties have expressed interest in raising bees on the farm. Ms. Snow offered to contact a bee expert she knows to learn more about how many hives the farm could sustain.

The commission discussed ways to promote the RCC and open space. Ms. Snow suggested “Open Space Days” or an event on National Trails Day. Mr. Bishop recommended setting up a booth at local events similar to the one last weekend in Ballard Park.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake