



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**  
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
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**September 18, 2017**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Carroll Brewster
Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
Jack Kace	Alan Pilch
Kitsey Snow	

The following members were absent: Eric Beckenstein, Tim Bishop, Dan Levine and Ben Oko. Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

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## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of September 6, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

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## 2. OPEN SPACE

**a) East Ridge Trail** – Mr. Coyle suggested connecting the two sections of trail based on positive response from hikers after recent clearing of the trails. Mr. Cronin will head up the effort once the leaves have fallen.

**b) McKeon Farm** – Mr. Coyle and Ms. Snow met with the two farmers to resolve issues. The RCC will purchase fence posts to section off an area for Mr. William's steer. The RCC will continue to work on formalizing management of the farm, which may include hiring a part-time manager.

**c) Pine Mountain Trail** – NEMBA will be holding a work party on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to continue work on the new trail leading up to the lookout. The trail should be finished and ready for blazing by November.

Mr. Cronin has created, and will install, a new sign designating the Charles Ives Homestead site at the lookout.

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#### 4) NEW AND CONTINUING TOPICS

**a) Great Swamp** – A representative from Harbor Watch will attend the RCC's October 16th meeting.

**b) REI/NRVT** – Ms. Snow is anticipating a good crowd for the September 30, 2017 event. Ms. Lake will contact the Highway department for garbage pickup after event.

**c) Woodcock Nature Center** – The movie, Before the Flood, will be shown at the Playhouse on October, 1, 2017. A cooperative invasive removal session is being planned for the spring.

**d) Press Protocol** – It was agreed that the Chairman will be the only person speaking on the RCC's behalf. Commissioners are free to communicate their positions on issues as long as it is made clear that it is their personal belief and not necessarily representative of the entire commission.

**e) RCC Meeting Schedule** – There have been occasional conflicts with the BOS meeting when the RCC meets on Wednesday night. It was agreed that Ms. Lake will draft a 2018 meeting calendar avoiding the issue.

**f) Robert's Rules of Order** – Mr. Coyle reviewed the rules and noted that the commission has been operating under a few misconceptions. It was found that the Chair can "participate in debate, make motions, and vote on all questions". Also, in regard to voting in Executive Session, "yes, votes can be taken in executive session. Proceedings in an executive session are secret, but are not restricted in any other way".

**g) Whitbeck Estate** – The offer to purchase the house was pulled due to inspection issues. The RCC will schedule a home appraisal and meet with Town Counsel before the September 28, 2017 probate meeting.

**795 North Salem Road** – The Town attorney has filed for a judicial pre-trial in the Reddington case and will contact John Pinchbeck regarding settlement estimates.

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#### 5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

##### a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep. 19 – Mr. Brewster (Private Club public hearing/stormwater committee nominee)

Sep. 26 – Ms. Snow (160 High Ridge/Nod Hill Brewery)

Oct. 3 – Ms. Baker (BMW?)

Oct. 17 – Mr. Beckenstein (Circle Drive B&B/28 West Branchville)

##### b) New & Continued Business

**748 Danbury Road** – The RCC reviewed the culvert replacement application and has no comments on the application.

**160 High Ridge Road** – Mr. Pilch explained the application for a subdivision accessway, which includes a stormwater management plan. Mr. Pilch will draft comments on the application.

**28 West Branchville Road** – The application for a three-lot subdivision bordering both Redding and Ridgefield was discussed. Mr. Pilch will draft comments that suggest finding alternatives to septic and catch basin locations and minimal land clearing on steep slopes to ensure soil stability.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake