



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

August 13, 2018

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:	Eric Beckenstein	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
	Jack Kace	Dan Levine	Alan Pilch
	Ben Oko		

Absent: Susan Baker, Tim Bishop, Carroll Brewster, Kitsey Snow

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake took minutes.
Tracy Miller was also in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 30, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of July 30, 2018 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Open Space Acquisition

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried it was AGREED to enter executive session at 7:35pm. The executive session concluded at 8:10 pm.

3. SUSTAINABILITY/RACE

Dr. Oko discussed RACE and its accomplishments over the past few months. The group has begun a “greening up” program for local restaurants, is helping Ridgefield achieve bronze status in the Sustainability CT program, and is working to add a new chapter in the next POCD on sustainability. In addition, Dr. Oko mentioned that a new Energy Task Force has formed to increase attention on environmental and energy efficiency in town.

4. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep 4 – Brewster/Cronin (340 Peaceable Public Hearing)
Sep 19 – Kace/Snow (233 Danbury Road?)
Sep 25 – Pilch/Baker

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

July 31 – POCD – Ms. Baker attended the P&Z Special Meeting and reported that a chapter on Sustainability will most likely be included in the next POCD. The POCD scheduled completion date is April, 2020.

c) New and Continued Business

340 Peaceable – The RCC will schedule a site walk for Friday, Sept. 14th at 8am. Mr. Pilch will draft comments.

233 Danbury Road – The application is generally acceptable. Mr. Pilch will draft minor comments.

d) 27 Richardson Drive – Mr. Coyle updated the commission on the current issue caused by a resident clear cutting their property and installing a pond without permits. The unauthorized work caused serious flooding and mudslides to neighboring properties and town streets. A cease and desist order has been issued while the property owner awaits an engineering report.

e) Prospect Ridge & Governor Street - RCC comments on the projects were discussed and will be sent to P&Z.

5. BUDGET UPDATE – After projecting expenses for the 2018-19 fiscal year, it appears the RCC will have a \$2600 surplus.

6. OPEN SPACE

The McKeon Farm – Mr. Cronin reported that the edges along the roads and fences need mowing, the garden plots need rototilling, and wildflowers and shrubs should be planted in the fall. Ms. Lake will organize mowing and tilling, and Mr. Pilch will assist with shrub selection. The solar panel system has been ordered and will arrive this week. Mr. Cronin will need assistance in September with installation.

Understory Study Update – A new reporting format has been established and distributed to the study group. Members will send changes to Mr. Coyle by Thursday, 8/16. The final report should be ready to present to the BOS in September.

Shadow Lake – Turning jurisdiction over to RCC is still in progress. No BOS date has been set.

Skytop Road – The road will be demapped and is scheduled for the September 5th BOS meeting.

7. 2018-19 DEER HUNT SIGNAGE – Mr. Zandri was asked to send pictures of the signs along with the 2018-19 hunting dates.

8. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION – The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to send the recommendation to split P&Z and IWB to the voters. RCC members are asked to think about strategies to help get the word out to voters. The strategies will be discussed at the September 12th meeting.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake