



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

September 12, 2018

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, September 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Susan Baker Eric Beckenstein Tim Bishop Carroll Brewster
Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Jack Kace Dan Levine
Kitsey Snow

Absent: Alan Pilch and Ben Oko

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Ms. Baker took minutes.
Michael Klemens and Jeff Hansen were also in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2018 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep 19 – Beckenstein/Kace (233 Danbury Road)
Sep 25 – Pilch/Baker (Winter Club)
Oct 2 – Snow
Oct 16 – Bishop/Brewster
Oct. 23 - Cronin/Kace

b) New and Continued Business

28 Great Hill Road – Applicant did not show – no discussion

340 Peaceable Street - Michael Klemens and a Peaceable Street neighbor, Jeff Hansen, were in attendance. Dr. Klemens presented the information that he will be presenting to the IWB regarding the impact of the proposed development on the wetlands in the area.

233 Danbury Road – No report.

c) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

Aug. 28 – Richardson Drive - On August 28, the property was still very unstable and any future rain events would continue the process of erosion and flooding onto Richardson Drive. The IWB authorized the homeowner to start work proposed by the engineer that was hired prior to final acceptance of a draft approval because of the very unstable condition of the property. As of the subsequent IWB meeting of September 11, the property had been stabilized such that water leaving the property was clean and contained. Some of the RCC comments were rendered moot because some of the plans presented on August 28 had already been implemented. It was explained that the pond, which was pre-existing, was in the process of being stabilized, and therefore the planting of the riparian buffer was allowed to be conducted in the spring, with RCC approval. Both RCC and the Agent will have to approve the planting before the project is certified as complete.

Also of note: the applications for 84 Governor Street and 62 Prospect Ridge Road were discussed. Environmental peer review was approved for both properties. The site walk for both will be held October 21, with the public hearing on Nov 7.

Sep. 4 – Winter Club Public Hearing - Based on Dr. Klemen's presentation and written report, and an upcoming site walk, the RCC may decide to amend previously submitted comments prior to the next public hearing. The RCC site walk is scheduled for Friday, September 14th at 8:00 am.

3. OPEN SPACE

The McKeon Farm – Ms. Snow and Mr. Cronin reported that the vegetable garden is in and they will be planting a wildflower mix on the portion of the garden to be maintained by the RCC. RCC will need to rent a roto-tiller in order to till the portion that we will be maintaining. Mr. Cronin reported that a stand of Jimson weed has appeared on the property. It is highly poisonous and will need to be removed. He proposed buying a small battery powered chain saw that can be mounted on a pole to avoid contact with the plants. The solar panels for the shed will be installed Sunday at 11AM.

Understory Study Update – Mr. Coyle presented part 1 of the study report, which is an overview of the work done. Ms. Baker is going to edit the material by this weekend. Dr. Kace is writing up part 2, which will be the data and observations. Mr. Coyle is working on part 3, which is going to be conclusions and recommendations, incorporating comments that we received from Ed Faison of Highstead. It was suggested that the deadline for submitting the report to the RCC be moved to end of October as the town meeting will not be until March 2019. Mr. Coyle will speak with Mr. Marconi about this.

Shadow Lake – The Selectmen will walk the property. There was a discussion that possibly a lot could be split off prior to conveying the property to open space. No further comment from the RCC is needed at this time.

Skytop Road - A public hearing about abandoning the road was tentatively set for October 10, and a town meeting for October 24. Atty Grogins will review possible legal rights of neighbors. In the meantime, we will implement the two locks plan to allow the abutting neighbor to continue to have access to the road.

4. 2018-19 DEER HUNT SIGNAGE – Approved by BOS.

5. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION – The subcommittee will meet at the ACT theatre Monday, 9/17 at 7:30pm.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – The Whitbeck property: the town is closing out documents. After payment of legal fees, the remainder of the settlement will be received. No gag order was imposed on the plaintiffs.

7. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

1. Fracking ordinance – Ms. Snow handed out information about the Fracking ordinance. The next meeting of BOS is not yet scheduled. RACE is looking for RCC members to help out with technical details. Mr. Bishop volunteered to help. Mr. Coyle will discuss at his next meeting with Mr. Marconi.
 2. WPCA – Ms. Snow and Ms. Baker will follow up regarding the cost of keeping lights on year-round, as this issue does not appear to be on the table for the new plant.
 3. Harbor Watch issued a report showing that the health of Norwalk Harbor has deteriorated. Specifically that oxygen levels are lower, temperature is higher, salinity is higher, and fish populations have decreased.
 4. 795 North Salem Road property tree planting - As discussed earlier, we will start planting trees this fall. Mr. Cronin will head up this effort.
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ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake