



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**

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

**March 11, 2019**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Susan Baker                      Eric Beckenstein                      Tim Bishop                      Carroll Brewster  
            Jim Coyle                              Dave Cronin                          Jack Kace                          Daniel C. Levine  
            Ben Oko                                  Alan Pilch                              Kitsey Snow

John Papa, Allan Welby, and Sandra Capriotti were also in attendance.

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting, Ms. Lake took the minutes.

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## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

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## 2. OPEN SPACE

Ridgefield Thrift Shop – Sandra Capriotti, President of the Ridgefield Thrift Shop, presented the RCC with a check for \$8,000, awarded to assist in reclaiming of the meadow at Lake Windwing. The RCC was overwhelmed and grateful by the generous donation, which well exceeded the RCC's \$1,500 request.

Ben Oko – Dr. Oko informed the commission that he would not be seeking reappointment. After 18 years on the commission, he will focus on his many other ventures but assured the commission that he will be available for special projects and will continue to support the RCC in any way possible. With a round of applause, the RCC thanked Dr. Oko for his many years of service and commitment to the commission.

352 West Lane – John Papa explained the concept behind his 3½ -acre working farm on a vacant lot he owns. A 320-square-foot storage trailer is currently being used for indoor farming and once weather permits, additional land will be used for herbs and possibly chickens. Mr. Papa is interested in collaborating with the RCC on developing farming practices on conservation land. The RCC will visit the site on Friday, March 22.

The McKeon Farm - Reroofing the shed will be done this week. The RCC will share a large dumpster to clean up additional debris on the farm. The clean-up is tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, March 15.

Schlumberger Trail – Mr. Cronin will email Mr. Marconi about blazing a trail using the Schlumberger open space. The trail will connect ROAR to the rail trail and dog park.

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**3. ANNUAL MEETING** – Commissioners will submit a list of possible speakers and recipients of the Edith Meffley Award by next Monday. Mr. Levine offered to host the meeting at the ACT Theater and will check on availability in early May. Mr. Coyle will present the first ever Chairman’s Award to the Ridgefield Boy Scout Troops in appreciation for their help and support over the years.

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**4. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD**

a) Meetings for Attendance

- Mar 12 – Cronin/Beckenstein (509 Main Street)
- Mar 19 – Snow/Beckenstein (Info Session on Renewable Energy)
- Mar 26 – Levine/Pilch (865 EA Hwy – PH)

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meeting

Mar 5 – Bishop (POCD). Mr. Coyle spoke at the meeting, presenting the RCC’s suggestions for the 2020 POCD. Additional listening sessions will be held in April and May. Public comments will be solicited in June and July (format and method to be determined). It is estimated that the first draft of the actual POCD will be ready for additional comments in September.

c) New and Continued Business

60 Cedar Lane – Mr. Pilch’s preliminary comments were reviewed. The RCC will join P&Z on the site walk 3/17/19.

865 Ethan Allen Highway – the RCC will join the P&Z site walk on 3/17/19.

509 Main Street – RCC comments on revisions to the Stormwater Management system will be sent to Mr. Baldelli Tuesday, 3/12.

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**5. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

- Ms. Snow, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Levine and Mr. Pilch will be reappointed at the BOS meeting on 3/20/19.
  - Mr. Coyle will draft a sample conservation easement agreement in an effort to standardize language to be used in future P&Z/IWB applications.
  - Ms. Snow will draft a letter supporting the state water plan to keep water as a public trust resource.
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**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake