



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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March 25, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Susan Baker Eric Beckenstein Carroll Brewster
 Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Daniel C. Levine
 Alan Pilch Kitsey Snow

Absent: Tim Bishop and Jack Kace

Erik Keller was also in attendance.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Open Space Determinations – Dr. Kace has begun working on a draft definition of what constitutes open space. Discussion will continue when Dr. Kace returns.

352 West Lane – Messrs. Coyle, Pilch, and Cronin and Ms. Baker walked the property with the owner and farmer. At this point, the owner has no intention of farming within the conservation easement area. No further involvement by the RCC is needed. Mr. Coyle will notify the property owner.

The McKeon Farm

- Ms. Freeman and Ms. Snow will conduct soil tests on two fields within the next couple of weeks.
- The barn roof is completed but additional cleanup is needed. Mr. Levine will contact Rangers about availability for weekend work.
- Ms. Snow will look into ways to remove rotting hay and turkey/chicken droppings from the barn.

Lake Windwing – Parks & Rec did more cutting and plans to move/consolidate debris piles that may require chipping in the future. Mr. Pilch will develop a planting plan for the meadow area.

McManus Tree Cutting – Mr. Cronin will investigate a possible tree cutting violation reported by a ranger near the open space trail at West Mountain/McManus. If the violation is confirmed, we will send Beth Peyser out to formally investigate.

3. ANNUAL MEETING – The meeting will be held at the ACT Theater on May 1st at 6pm. Ms. Snow will contact Margery Winters about speaking, Mr. Coyle will contact the Meffley Award winner and will work on the Boy Scout award. Mr. Levine will organize the food. The remaining commissioners will split up beverages, dessert, and paper goods.

4. DEER HUNT HEARING – The Board of Selectmen has asked the RCC for help gathering information on the Deer Hunt. The goal was to present some information to residents at a public hearing prior to a town vote to continue, amend, or end the annual deer hunt. After a long discussion, the commission agreed that there is no simple or scientifically based answers to the deer hunt debate. Mr. Coyle will explore the topic further with Mr. Marconi.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the RCC recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a town-wide vote on the deer hunt be scheduled, emphasizing the fact that several open space trails and lands will be closed as a result of the hunt.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Mar 26 – Pilch (167/173 High Ridge)

Apr 2 – Snow/Baker

Apr 9 – Kace/Levine

Apr 23 – Bishop/Brewster

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meeting

Mar 19 – P&Z made no decisions based on the first Renewable Energy Information Session. P&Z plans to continue the information sessions before setting new parameters in town regulations regarding energy structures.

c) New and Continued Business

60 Cedar Lane – Mr. Pilch's concerns regarding the amount of dredged material to be extracted and the location of where it would be deposited during the pond dredging were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the RCC agreed to forward Mr. Pilch's comments to P&Z/IWB.

865 Ethan Allen Highway – Mr. Pilch and Ms. Baker attended the site walk with P&Z on March 17. Mr. Pilch's comments suggesting more focus on a restoration and planting plan as part of the violation remediation were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to send Mr. Pilch's comments, with amendment, to P&Z/IWB.

6. MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

- Earth Day – Ms. Snow will look into logistics and pricing in her proposal to give away 50 trees to celebrate Earth Day.

- Aquarion Diversion – Aquarion rescinded their application to divert one million gals/day from a Wilton section of the Norwalk River after outcry by public at the Public Hearing.
- NRVF – The rerouted section of the Ridgefield Ramble estimate is \$600,000 and the committee is looking for fundraising help. Commissioners are asked to think about ways to raise the funds.
- Tree Fund Use – Ms. Snow proposed using the Old Sib fund to pay for the 50 trees on Earth Day. The RCC agreed.
- Pollinator Pathway – Great progress has been made on the pathway, which now includes 23 towns.
- Senate Bill 76 – The RCC sent a letter of support for the bill that would authorize municipalities to restrict use of pesticides in certain areas/properties.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - Mr. Coyle will contact Ms. Mucchetti about her FOIA comment made to Mr. Pilch on the March 17th P&Z/IWB site walk.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake