



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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May 20, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jim Coyle

Erik Keller and Allan Welby were also in attendance.

Dr. Kace chaired the meeting, Ms. Lake took the minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Brewster approved a \$225 invoice for field cutting on North Street. Mr. Brewster suggested the RCC review mowing procedures and timing. The issue will be discussed at the next RCC meeting.

2. OPEN SPACE

McManus Tree Cutting – Mr. Coyle, Dr. Kace, Mr. Beckenstein, Mr. Pilch, Ms. Baker, Ms. Peyser, the property owner, Mr. Ritter, and his landscape architect Brook Clark, walked the site on Sunday, 5/19. The group reviewed and measured the trees taken down in open space. Mr. Coyle and Ms. Peyser will estimate the fallen tree value using the formula found in The Guide for Plant Appraisal and discuss the results with John Pinchbeck.

CT Trail Days – Ms. Snow and Mr. Cronin offered to lead a hike at Pine Mountain on Saturday, June 1st at 10am to celebrate National Trail Days. Mr. Levine will contact the Press about the event and will post the hike on RCC Facebook page.

Rail Trail Erosion – Eversource contacted that RCC about areas on the rail trail damaged by erosion found during a routine inspection. Mr. Coyle forwarded the concerns to Parks & Rec. Eversource plans to repair the damage and additional measures to prevent further erosion might need to be taken by both Eversource and the Town.

The McKeon Farm

- Mr. Cronin informed the commission that Cece Berger may use the tractor from time to time to mow the garden area.
 - A work party will be discussed, and possibly scheduled, at the next meeting.
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3. RCC ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER INTERVIEWS – Erik Keller, Allan Welby

The RCC interviewed two excellent candidates for the Alternate Commissioner position. Both Mr. Keller and Mr. Welby are longtime residents, interested in serving the community and share the commission's conservation mission. It was agreed that both men would be fantastic additions to the commission but because there is only one opening, it was decided to recommend Mr. Keller to the BOS for appointment.

4. AQUIFER PROTECTION AGENCY (APA)

Mr. Kace discussed the recent P&Z/IWB meeting and mentioned that P&Z requested a copy of the map presented at the BOS meeting. The two maps related to the Aquifer areas are conflicting and Mr. Kace and Mr. Coyle are working to clarify discrepancies. Ms. Lake will confirm the public hearing and town meeting dates with the First Selectman's office.

5. DEER HUNT HEARING

Mr. Coyle delivered five copies of the draft report to the Board of Selectmen last week. There have been no questions as of this date.

6. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

May 28 – Bishop/Snow
Jun 4 – Beckenstein/Levine
Jun 11 – Bishop/Brewster
Jun 25 – Cronin/Kace

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

May 14 – 22 South Street. Ms. Baker sent a report after the meeting and mentioned that most RCC suggestions were agreed to, with the exception of moving the driveway.

Dr. Kace noted that a written recap after P&Z meetings are a valuable resource for those attending future meetings and suggested attendees continue to do this in the future.

c) New and Continued Business

- 22 South Street (WPCA Upgrade) – Mr. Pilch's comments focusing on protecting the wetlands, and removing invasives, as well as a discussion at the PZ meeting on spill prevention were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to adopt Mr. Pilch's comments as final.

- 99 Barry Avenue & 100 Danbury Road – Mr. Pilch will review the plans. Ms. Lake will schedule a site walk for both properties on Friday, May 31st. 8am for Barry Ave and 8:30am for Danbury Road.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake