



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

**July 1, 2019**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:        Susan Baker                      Eric Beckenstein              Jim Coyle  
                    Dave Cronin                      Jack Kace                      Alan Pilch

Absent:        Carroll Brewster, Erik Keller, Daniel C. Levine, Kitsey Snow and Allan Welby

Michael Rothman was 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 June 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Baker) and carried (Pilch abstained), it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2019 are approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

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## 2. OPEN SPACE

NY Botanical Garden – Michael Rothman – Mr. Rothman described the project he is working on with the NY Botanical Garden (NYBG). He is currently involved in the “New Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada” project under the direction of Dr. Robert Naczi of the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. Rothman would like the RCC’s permission to photograph and collect limited amounts of plant material within areas of designated Ridgefield Open Space. The collected plant material, called “vouchered specimens” would be analyzed for its identity and cataloged in perpetuity at the herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Both photographic and habitat data will be collected in the field and when the specimens are formally analyzed, they will become part of the “New Manual” database. The RCC agreed that this would be great project to be involved with and asked that Dr. Naczi send a letter summarizing the project and the intent to collect specimens from the Ridgefield open space.

7 Chipmunk Lane – The beaver dam near the property was removed as requested. No further work is needed by the RCC at this time.

103 Peaceable Hill – Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace met with the town attorneys to discuss the violation. There has been no contact by the homeowner’s attorney as of this date.

99 Barry Avenue – Don Sturges, developer of the PRD, stopped into the RCC office and asked if we would be interested in working with him to plant the wetland areas. Mr. Coyle will contact Mr. Sturges to discuss further.

Schlumberger Trail – Mr. Coyle and Mr. Cronin continue to work on the trail but discrepancies with mapping and property ownership need to be resolved before moving ahead.

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### 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried it was AGREED to enter executive session at 9:20pm. The executive session concluded at 9:25 pm.

A site walk will be scheduled for Wednesday, July 10 at 8am.

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### 4. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

- Jun 25 – Cronin/Kace (99 Barry Ave, 100 Danbury Rd)
- Jul 2 – Brewster/Snow (Canceled)
- Jul 9 – Baker/Beckenstein (POCD/800 EA Hwy)
- Jul 16 – Brewster/Snow (439 Silver Spring)
- Jul 23 – Levine/Cronin (99 Barry Ave & 100 Danbury Rd - cont'd)

b) Report on Meetings – June 25 Kace/Cronin

- **99 Barry Avenue** – The RCC has concerns with the applicant’s proposed use of iron pipe for delineation of the open space. The RCC will draft additional comments to submit prior to the public hearing, continued to July 23.
- **100 Danbury Road** – Dr. Kace reported there was discussion about the property’s location in an aquifer protection area and RCC concerns regarding direct wetland impact by the parking area and minimal upland setbacks were not fully discussed. The RCC will draft additional comments to submit prior to the public hearing, continued to July 23.
- **APA** – The quarterly meeting of the APA was held after the P&Z/IWB meeting. Ms. Mucchetti has requested a list of approved applications from the past that were in aquifer protection areas.

c) New and Continued Business

- **439 Silver Spring** – Members of the RCC walked the site on Friday and discussed Mr. Pilch’s draft comments. The comments focus on the negative impact the new facility will have on the two nearby vernal pools. The RCC would like to see more wetland data and alternative locations for the facility.

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Cronin) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to send Mr. Pilch’s comments on 439 Silver Spring to P&Z/IWB.

- **800 Ethan Allen Highway** – Ms. Lake will confirm that we have received the plans and that they are accessible on Dropbox. If the RCC plans to send comments, they are needed prior to the public hearing on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
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**5. SUMMER FESTIVALS** – Two upcoming festivals were brought to the RCC's attention after the participation deadline passed. Ms. Lake will make a note to look in the spring for upcoming summer festivals that the RCC might be interested in attending.

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## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

**Ms. Snow** was honored last weekend for her work with the Garden Club of America, as summarized by Carroll Brewster.

"Kitsey Snow has just received the Zone Conservation Award from the Garden Club of America. The Award is given to recognize sustained commitment to, and accomplishment in, conservation within Connecticut and Rhode Island. Contributions to conservation should be made on a regional, not just local, level. Edith Meffley and Ben Oko have also received this award."

**Cornerstone Gardens** has fresh spinach, lettuce and kale ripe for the picking at McKeon for anyone who is interested.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Baker) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Colleen Lake