



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

October 21, 2019

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:	Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein	Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
	Jack Kace	Erik Keller	Daniel C. Levine	Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow
	Allan Welby				

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

Whitney Freeman and Matt Sharp were also in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2019 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Whitney Freeman – Henny Penny Farm Update – Whitney discussed her progress this year and her plans for the future at McKeon.

- The water pipeline is finished and the lines, including the new line installed to the garden, will be blown out by the end of November.
- Ridgebury Pasture 1 is due for liming. Ms. Freeman suggested liming in the spring based on soil tests results taken later this fall. The RCC agreed to pay for liming Ridgebury Pasture 1 in the spring.
- Ms. Freeman would like to keep brood ewes and llamas this winter on a section of Stagecoach Pasture 2. She plans to fence off/electrify a portion of the field, put in two weatherproof shelters, and reseed the field in the spring.

UPON motion duly made (Snow) seconded (Cronin) and carried, it was RESOLVED to allow Ms. Freeman to use the field for up to ten brood ewes and three llamas over the winter.

McKeon Maintenance – The final mowing of the perimeter, garden area, trail and shed/barn area will be done on Thursday, Oct. 24. Barn door construction will begin at 9am, Friday, Oct 25th and continue at 9am Saturday, Oct. 26th.

Annual Appeal – The letter should arrive in mailboxes within the next week or two.

Schlumberger Trail – Still waiting on Atty. Grogins and the hold harmless resolution. Mr. Cronin would like to begin laying out the trail and will walk the site with Mr. Pilch to look for potential runoff issues.

Open Space Signage - Mr. Cronin suggested commissioners familiarize themselves with the town GIS system. He will send the link to GIS which has a pinpoint feature which provides GPS coordinates. This will be helpful in marking open space properties along the roads.

3. FECB – No report.

4. GOALS & PROJECTS – The latest version was distributed and commissioners were asked to email feedback by Monday, Oct. 28. It will be discussed in more detail at the next RCC meeting.

5. POCD – The draft chapters on Open Space and Natural Resources were sent to the commission. Comments on the two chapters should be sent to Mr. Coyle by Friday, Nov. 1 for review at the November 4th RCC meeting.

6. PLANNING & ZONING/INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Oct. 29 – No attendance

Nov. 6 – Welby – WEDNESDAY MEETING

Nov. 12 – Beckenstein

Nov. 26 – Cronin

Dec. 3 – Brewster

b) Report on Meetings

Oct. 15 – Mr. Keller emailed meeting recap prior to the meeting. St. Stephen's public hearing was closed.

c) New & Continued Business

523 Ridgebury Road – As a condition of the nine acre, two-lot subdivision approval, the PZ accepted a Payment in Lieu of Open Space. The Conservation Commission was asked if they wished to be the recipient of the cited Payment in Lieu of open space. The RCC agreed to be the recipient.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- Mr. Welby will contact Mr. Marconi about getting involved with the Road Salt Committee.
 - An independent arborist will visit the site near 103 Peaceable to evaluate and assess replacement value.
 - Mr. Beckenstein continues to gather information about Easement language used throughout the state.
 - Mr. Coyle will contact the RPD about working with the RCC and Deer Committee.
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ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Baker) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake