

APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
June 27, 2016

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, June 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Eric Beckenstein
Tim Bishop
Jim Coyle
Dave Cronin
Jack Kace
Alan Pilch
Kitsey Snow
Dan Levine, Alternate

The following members were absent:

Susan Baker
Carroll Brewster
Ben Oko, Alternate

Ms. Snow chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

Keefer Welsh and Deer Committee members, Stefano Zandri, Paul Payne and Chief Roche were in also in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2016 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT - No report

OPEN SPACE

- a) Deer Committee – Hunt Master Stefano Zandri discussed the results of the 2015-16 hunt. 10 hunters took 45 deer; 11 bucks and 34 does. Goals were not met due to a mild winter, record acorns, the doe replacement program and fewer permits being issued. Mr. Zandri will use the same hunters in 2016-17 but would like to start the hunt a week earlier, October 7. The Deer Committee asked to hunt the same properties as last year, but requested the addition of Hemlock Hills (firearms) and

Silvermine Ridge (archery only). Mr. Levine read emails from concerned Rangers opposing the additional hunting areas requested by the Deer Committee. The RCC will discuss and vote on the properties at the next meeting.

- b) Walk Book – Mr. Coyle is hoping to have a completed draft of the walkbook by mid-July for distribution to Commissioners.
- c) Summer worker supervision schedule – Mr. Beckenstein will supervise July 12, 14 & 19, Mr. Kace on July 11, 13 & 15. Mr. Pilch will help with the last week of July.

Ms. Snow introduced summer intern/worker Keefer Welsh and thanked him for his service and a job well done.

- d) Coach Homes – Trail Liability – Managing Member, Marty Handshy, requested liability information regarding the proposed trail in the conservation easement on the property. Mr. Cronin provided the latest state statute which absolves the property owner of liability on easements, provided no entrance fee is charged. The statute was sent to Mr. Handshy and will be sent to all RCC members for future reference.

McKeon Farm – Mr. Cronin scheduled a meeting with a USDA representative on 7/28/16, 10:30am, to discuss farm management and possible grants available. Additionally, the RCC will consult with Parks & Rec about helping with field maintenance and invasives control.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

June 28 – Mr. Cronin/Mr. Pilch (509 Main/900 Ridgebury/14 Twopence)

July 5 – Mr. Brewster

July 12 – Mr. Beckenstein/Mr. Bishop

July 19 – Ms. Baker

New & Continued Business

4 Wooster Street – Ms. Snow reported that the applicant will remove new fill and the shed.

900 Ridgebury Road – Mr. Pilch, Ms. Snow, Mr. Beckenstein and Mr. Coyle walked the property on Sunday. Mr. Pilch discussed his concerns on the 173 space parking area.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was
RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's comments to the IWB, along with his credentials, on behalf of the RCC.

14 Twopence – Mr. Pilch described the application to extend a drain pipe to a newly installed Town catch basin within the wetland.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was
RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's comments to IWB on behalf of the
RCC.

DEEP/IWB Training – Ms. Snow, Mr. Cronin & Mr. Coyle will register for the training.

5) ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

- a) Still River Watershed project – Ms. Snow and Mr. Bishop will create an agenda for a meeting to be scheduled with Mr. Marconi and Town Engineer, Charles Fisher.
- b) Dorothea Whitbeck estate – Mr. Kace and Mr. Brewster met with Mr. & Mrs. Lounsbury on June 23, 2016. Ms. Snow will arrange a meeting with Town Attorney Grogins to discuss the issue.

6) New Business

Main Street traffic project – Mr. Coyle learned from CT DOT anticipates setting a meeting date during the week of July 25, 2016 to discuss the project with Town officials. The RCC will look to have representation at that meeting

Route 7 Bridge Work – The project is scheduled to begin mid-July.

7) Flood & Erosion Control Board

- a) Still River Watershed – Ms. Snow attended a meeting and learned that municipalities will be required to develop a 5 year stormwater management plan that includes public outreach and partnership with watershed organizations. The RCC should have a role in developing and implementing this plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake