



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ridgefield Conservation Commission**

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
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**March 9, 2020**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Carroll Brewster (by phone) Jim Coyle Dave Cronin Jack Kace  
Daniel C. Levine Jean Linville Matt Sharp

Absent: Eric Beckenstein, Erik Keller, Kitsey Snow and Allan Welby

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

Daniel Donovan was also in attendance.

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## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster) and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

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Mr. Coyle asked to add four items to the agenda.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Levine) and carried, it was RESOLVED to add the following to the agenda:

- 138 Great Hill (Szymanska property)
- Dumping at Peaceable Refuge
- 103 Peaceable Settlement
- Letters of support

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## **2. OPEN SPACE**

Eagle Scout Project – Daniel Donovan - Daniel described his eagle scout project in the Schlumberger property. He plans to build a 16'x4' bridge set on a rock base that includes adding thin, wood slats to the top of the decking to prevent slippage when icy or wet. The project will be done with the help of two leaders and four or five scouts, and will take place the weekend of March 28<sup>th</sup>. The cost of materials is \$468.26.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and carried, it was RESOLVED to appropriate up to \$600 for the construction supplies of the first of three bridges to be built on the Schlumberger trail, pending approval from the Inland Wetlands Board (if required) and Mr. Cronin regarding possible trail rerouting.

DEEP OSWA Grant – Mr. Welby reviewed the grant requirements and determined the RCC should go ahead with the grant application. Two Yellow Book appraisals will be required for the Bear Mountain property at an additional cost of \$3,500.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and carried, it was RESOLVED to appropriate \$3,500 for the additional Yellow Book appraisal for the Bear Mountain property.

Apple Tree Pruning & Planting – Ms. Linville discussed her attendance at a recent H2H Workshop on apple tree pruning. An arborist suggested the apple tree orchard at McKeon Farm would benefit from pruning, done in stages, over time. It was determined to be too late this year to begin a pruning program so the topic will be revisited in the fall. Mr. Brewster has ordered six apple trees that should arrive in time for April planting, hopefully to coincide with Earth Day/Arbor Day activities.

Projects Spring & Summer 2020 – Mr. Sharp and Mr. Cronin compiled a lengthy list of open space jobs/projects available to scouts and summer workers. They will prioritize, group the projects, and identify who will be needed for the work.

Deed Language for Open Space Parcels – Ms. Lake reported the results after reviewing the RCC's 381 open space files. 28% of the 381 open space parcels are currently not under RCC jurisdiction and lack specific deed restrictions. Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace will discuss the situation with Mr. Marconi later this week.

Dumping in Peaceable Refuge – Mr. Cronin found large stumps and tree sections dumped into the refuge. He will ask Ms. Peyser to visit the site and begin violation proceedings.

138 Great Hill – Mr. Kace will attend the next IWB meeting, which has the Szymanska property/site walk on the agenda, and will report back.

103 Peaceable Violation – The violation payment has been received. Mr. Keller will contact the property owner to schedule site cleanup when he returns.

Letters of Support – Mr. Coyle will send a letter of support to CFPA, if passed, would enable towns to waive property taxes along trail corridors of state-designated Greenways for landowners who place a conservation easement on that portion of their property. Mr. Levine will contact Mr. Frey about the Passport to Parks bill for additional information and guidance.

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### **3. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE**

#### **a) P&Z**

Mar 11 –

Mar 24 - Beckenstein

#### **b) IWB**

Mar 12 – Kace (Turner 8-30g/138 Great Hill)

Mar 26 - Sharp

### **4. EXTRA CURRICULARS –**

Earth Day – April 22, 2020 – Mr. Cronin will lead clean up at the Windwing meadow on April 25, Mr. Welby will lead Woodcock Courtship Day at McKeon on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone else interested in hosting an Earth Day activity should give Ms. Lake the information by the end of March. The activities will be compiled and distributed via Facebook, email blast, etc.

Logo Contest – Mr. Levine and Ms. Linville have announced the contest. All entries are to be received by April 30<sup>th</sup> and the winner will be announced at the RCC Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Planning – The meeting will be held at ACT of CT on Tuesday, May 19, from 6-8pm. A representative from the Wolf Conservation Center will be the guest speaker. Several groups in town such as, the Ridgefield Women’s Club, League of Women Voters, will be added to the guest list.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Levine) and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve payment of the \$350 honorarium fee for the Wolf Conservation Center speaker.

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**5. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS** – Happy 58<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the commission on March 2<sup>nd</sup>!

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace) and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Colleen Lake