



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

April 20, 2020

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held via teleconference on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:	Eric Beckenstein	Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
	Jack Kace	Erik Keller	Daniel C. Levine	Jean Linville
	Matt Sharp	Kitsey Snow	Allan Welby	

Ian Landau, RCC Ranger, also attended via teleconference.

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

Mr. Coyle asked to add Enforcement Items to the agenda.

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Brewster) and carried, it was RESOLVED to add Enforcement Items to the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 6, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made (Brewster), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2020 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

McKeon Farm

Apple tree planting – Six trees have been planted, four in the orchard and two next to the barn. In the future, we need volunteers to help water the trees with one gallon of water, per week, per tree. Ms. Lake will check with Ms. Freeman about turning the water on.

Mowing/Haying – The hayer does not feel the hay will be useful in August. The RCC will ask P&R to mow the fields in late October early November.

Brush Hog – The RCC discussed the purchase of a walk behind brush cutter.

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED to spend up to \$4000 on the purchase of the DR Pro Max 34 brush cutter.

Ledges – Ian Landau, a ranger for the Ledges open space, joined the meeting to discuss some concerns with the open space. Bait buckets and deer feeders have been left behind by hunters, the phone tower gate has been left open, and large debris items remain. In addition, there appears to be dumping by an abutting homeowner. Mr. Coyle will contact the Deer Committee about removing the bait stations and the town/P&R about possibly cleaning out the large debris.

ATVs at Pine Mountain – There have been several reports of ATVs using, and blazing, the trails around the Pine Mountain lookout. Mr. Cronin will walk the site with a member of NEMBA to see if it is possible to put up a chain to prevent access. Mr. Coyle will contact the RPD about the ATV activity.

There is also a broken fence section in the Pine Mountain parking area. Ms. Lake will contact the highway department about repairing the section.

McManus Dumping – A ranger reported landscaping debris found near the trail. Mr. Cronin said the debris was older, not recently dumped. In the past, the abutting homeowner has been advised of open space rules but has denied responsibility for the dumping.

Land Conservancy – Mr. Coyle reported his conversation with the new President, Michael Carpenter, of the Land Conservancy about teaming up on open space acquisitions, specifically the Boy Scout property off Pine Mountain. Mr. Sharp will reach out to his contact in the scout organization as well.

3. DEEP OSWA GRANT APPLICATION – The commissioners anticipate having a working draft by end of April.

4. MCKEON POLLINATOR PATHWAY, TERRACORPS GRANT – Ms. Snow discussed the opportunity to participate in a pollinator study at McKeon farm. The study will provide a planting plan, a base line pollinator count and a 2 year follow up count. The commission voted to approve the use of 10,000 sq. ft, in the current garden area, for study use. The NRWA and Pollinator Pathway will be responsible for planting the site. The RCC may help with site prep. The RCC may also provide funding for shrubs and trees at the site, from the Tree Fund

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Cronin), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the RCC will participate in the pollinator study at McKeon Farm.

5. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

- a) P&Z - Meetings canceled through the end of April.
- b) IWB – Apr 16 (via teleconference) – Ms. Snow reported that based on Mr. Klemen's report and the timing of submission of the application, the IWB voted not to take jurisdiction of the property

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- Commissioner Bio's – Commissioners are asked to submit by end of week.
 - Logo Contest – Continuing to gather excellent submissions. Mr. Levine and Ms. Linville will narrow it down to the best three and present them at the next RCC meeting.
 - The next RCC meeting will move to Monday, May 4th from Wed. May 6th.
 - Anyone with backpack ideas for the library project should send them to Ms. Linville by May 5th.
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ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Cronin), seconded (Brewster), and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Lake

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These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.