



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

May 9, 2018

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Present:	Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein	Carroll Brewster
	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
	Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow	
Absent:	Tim Bishop	Dan Levine	Ben Oko

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake took minutes. CeCe Berger and Joe Kowalczyk were also in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2018 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- The remaining budget was discussed and commissioners are asked to submit ideas for year-end purchases as soon as possible.
- Liming at McKeon Farm was discussed. The cost to do a half application for the remaining fields (except Lauzun) is estimated in the \$2000 to \$2500 range, assuming the application rate is the same as the orchard. The commission needs to commit these funds at the next meeting so that the costs can be applied to this fiscal year.
- Mr. Brewster asked to reimburse Mr. Levine's purchase of sandwiches for the annual meeting.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, it was RESOLVED to approve payment of \$268 for sandwiches at the annual meeting.

3. OPEN SPACE

McKeon Farm

- CeCe Berger of Cornerstone Home & Gardens and Joe Kowalczyk from Ridgefield Public Schools discussed their proposal for a parcel of land at the McKeon Farm. The parcel would provide vocational opportunities to 5-10 special needs students, ages 16-21, in the gardening/farming area. They are asking for a 50x100 area, to be enclosed by a portable 4.5 feet-high solar fence. Students would use RPS transportation to and from the farm and would have trained job coaches on the site at all times. The food produced on the farm would be used for promotional purposes.

It is anticipated that there would be one small bus in in the morning and one small bus out in the afternoon.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to recommend that the town enter into a one-year license agreement with Cornerstone Home & Garden, to begin as soon as possible through November 2018.

Ms. Snow will work with Ms. Freeman and Ms. Berger on the location and water supply. Ms. Snow will notify the abutting neighbors about the agreement. Mr. Coyle will draft a License Agreement.

- Reclamation of Meadow and Garden – Mr. Cronin would like to use some of the remaining funds to mow, till and remove invasives in 1.5 acres at the McKeon Farm. Ms. Lake will look into finding companies to do this.
- Tree Moving/Replanting – Ms. Freeman’s offer of five fruit trees was discussed. The commission decided not to take the trees after finding out that town departments cannot help move the trees and it would cost \$2500 for landscapers to move. Smaller apple trees will be planted in the future.
- Lulu Ritter Proposal – Ms. Ritter inquired about using 2-3 acres at the McKeon Farm to raise four small breed grazing pigs. The commission decided not to allow the pigs this year and focus on the Cornerstone agreement.

Work Party – East Ridge Trail – Mr. Cronin suggested setting up a work party June 2nd to blaze the trail, clean up downed trees, weedwack and put up signs. Mr. Levine will ask for help from the rangers.

North Shore Rd – Unimproved Roadway – The “roadway” off Skytop and North Shore Road was recently used by an abutting property owner who broke the chain barrier, allowing ATV’s access into open space. Mr. Cronin would like to petition the town to abandon the roadway and deed it to the conservation commission in an effort to prevent disruptive/illegal activities in the open space. The commission agreed that Mr. Cronin should send a letter to Mr. Marconi and the Board of Selectmen.

Great Swamp Water Test – Mr. Brewster is interested in testing areas of the Norwalk River. Mr. Brewster will examine the Harborwatch and DEEP sites for current test sites and results.

4. 2018-19 DEER HUNT – The Deer Committee will attend the RCC 5/21/18 meeting. Commissioners are asked to forward questions about the hunt to Mr. Coyle by COB Friday, 5/11/18.

5. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

- John Soluri Dumping – One neighbor responded to the informational letter sent to abutting property owners about dumping and denied being responsible. No word from the other property owner.
 - George Washington Highway – The RCC is still waiting on the survey for 25 Stonewall Lane. Ms. Peyser has informed the property owner’s attorney that citation procedures will begin if progress is not made by May 21, 2018.
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6. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

May 15 – Dr. Kace and Ms. Baker
May 22 – Mr. Pilch & Ms. Snow
June 5 – Ms. Baker & Mr. Beckenstein
June 19 – Mr. Bishop & Mr. Brewster
June 26 – Mr. Cronin & Dr. Kace

7. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION – Mr. Coyle is waiting to hear from Mr. Marconi about how to proceed after the CRC recommends separation. In the meantime, the CRC subcommittee will look at how they might revise the presentation for the BoS.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – The tractor purchase was approved at the town meeting.

Mr. Brewster stated that the annual meeting was a great success, due largely to Mr. Levine's efforts, and thanked him for his hard work and a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake