



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023, at 7:30pm
Please note – these minutes are not verbatim

Present: Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark

Absent: Barbara Manners

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Tiger Hollow Update

Tiger Hollow Committee updated the Board of Selectmen of current and upcoming events, projects, and maintenance. The committee is collaborating with the Historical Society and plans to bring back the holiday house tour. Committee discussed upcoming projects and maintenance details for tracks and fields such as 12-year lease extensions and possible wear and tear replacements by the summer of 2025.

3. Appointments

A. Trudy Potter of the Golf Committee

Trudy Potter formally introduced herself to the Board of Selectmen and provided the Board with her background and history, interest about the Golf Committee, and her observations and goals for the committee.

Bob Hebert moved to approve Trudy Potter joining the Golf Committee as an alternate member for a four-year term. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Peter Nichols of Parks and Recreation

Peter Nichols formally reintroduced himself to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Nichols discussed his interests and goals for Parks and Recreation including working with the Conversation Committee on the Native Plant Policy.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the reappointing of Peter Nichols to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Revised Native Plant Policy

The goal of revising the native plant policy on town property was to provide more clarification.

Such as:

- Elimination of discussion of invasive plants as it distracted from the policy's main goals.
- Clarify definitions of native vs non-native plants.
- Clarify the list of exceptions to the policy e.g. Ballard Park in its entirety, sports fields, bulbs, and like-for-like replacement of individual trees in certain stands of non-native trees on Town land.
- Clarify the roles of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission and Tree Warden in the enforcement and review of different plantings.
- Clarify the use and appropriateness of cultivars.

Those involved in revising the policy would like to move forward with educational programs for the public such as hosting group talks and attending public schools to educate students. The collaboration between the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission has been working towards a revised policy cites that the policy is beneficial for all residents.

Bob Hebert moved to approve the revised Native Plant Policy, Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Old Branchville School Lease

The Board of Selectmen discussed maintenance, repairs, leases, and bills for the Branchville building. As of October 11, 2023, there is grant money pending and as result, there has been no significant actions taken to move forward.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sean Connelly moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 20, 2023, as modified. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the public hearing minutes from September 20, 2023. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Selectman's Report

The board discussed town projects such as infrastructure at the high school, Branchville updates and the ongoing town sewer project. Permits for the monument at the high school have been finalized and will continue to be worked on. The Board discussed the Peter Parlay school site project, the repairing of a town fountain, and the Olmstead Lane project. Estimates for all three projects total to about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars with all investing parties contributing.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve proceeding with a property survey for the Peter Parlay Schoolhouse project, Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Rudy Marconi motioned to adjourn the October 11, 2023 Board of Selectman meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.