



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED

October 9, 2024 at 7:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners, Rudy Marconi, Chris Murray

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 9:15pm, following the Special Town Meeting.

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. Appointments – Brendan Gunderson (Pension Commission)

Brendan Gunderson and Chris Christiansen, Chair, Pension Committee, were in attendance.

Topics discussed included:

- Mr. Gunderson shared he moved to Ridgefield in 2007 and would like to give back to the Town and share his knowledge of financial services and asset management.
- Mr. Christiansen voiced his support for Mr. Gunderson's appointment.
- Maureen Kozlark asked what perspective he would contribute to the Pension Commission. Mr. Gunderson shared he's more of a generalist, with long experience working directly with pension plans utilizing specific investment strategies.
- Sean Connelly asked about his philosophy for dealing with a municipal plan, as opposed to a corporate pension plan. Mr. Gunderson shared the plan is in a very good position now, so the intention would be to carry that forward and not take any undue risk.
- Rudy Marconi asked about the percentage of pension funds available for each respective group, historically the Town was 98-102%, but has hovered around 90% since the recession. Mr. Christiansen shared the plan has had an 11% return this past fiscal year, and after liability numbers, expects the issuance figure to return to the mid-90%.

Barbara Manners motioned to appoint Brendan Gunderson to the Pension Commission. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Acceptance of Flag Petition

Rudy Marconi shared a vote must be made within 45 days of accepting the petition. Maureen Kozlark confirmed that their regular November 20, 2024 meeting would be within that window.

Sean Connelly motioned to accept the flag petition. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 4-1, with Chris Murray voting against.

Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, asked his memo be read into the record.

Sean Connelly read a Memo from Kirk Carr from October 8, 2024, requesting the petition to be rejected.

Mr. Marconi shared he would discuss with town counsel, and, depending on their approval, would then set a date for a vote on the flag petition. Mr. Marconi shared it would be on the agenda for the next BoS meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. September 4, 2024 Special Meeting

Sean Connelly requested it be noted when someone is absent.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2024 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting, as amended. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Sean Connelly abstaining.

b. September 25, 2024

Mr. Connelly suggested clarifying Ms. Kozlark mentioned a change “from a Task Force to a Formal Committee” (page 3, Forms of Government Task Force).

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2024 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as amended. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Maureen Kozlark abstaining.

5. Selectperson’s Report

Rudy Marconi shared the Town will receive a Bronze Certification from Sustainable CT. Maureen Kozlark shared the new solar canopy at RHS wasn’t included in this certification, if it were, the Town could have received a Silver Certification. Mr. Marconi shared the solar canopy would supply about 30% of the electrical needs for the school district.

Mr. Marconi shared he went back to look at the dedication of a property at the corner of Halpin Lane and Prospect Ridge that was approved for Ability Beyond in 2015, and there has been no activity since then. Ability Beyond has expressed its plans have been held up by the State, but the Affordable Housing Committee has requested the property be considered for affordable housing units. Maureen Kozlark shared Ability Beyond was going to bring the resources to build on that property. Mr. Marconi confirmed and shared they plan to build a one-level, 6-unit facility. Mr. Marconi shared both groups could be invited to a BoS meeting to discuss.

Mr. Marconi shared the current owners of 145 Highridge have entered a voluntary remediation program with DEEP, and a large group of neighbors are concerned the cost may lead to a high-density development to cover the cost. Sean Connelly asked whether the state would claim ownership of the property. Mr. Marconi confirmed the owner is required to do the clean-up and they maintain ownership.

Mr. Marconi shared the proposal to build 40-60 units at the Binn property (599 Branchville Road) being considered by the Inland/Wetlands Board. And Dr. Moscardo's property (51 acres total, 12-15 usable) was approved to dredge Candee's Pond and clear trees that were invasive species or dead, but most of the site has been clear-cut. Mr. Marconi shared he met with neighbors who would like the Town to purchase the property and presented a plan for a park.

***Barbara Manners motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:56pm. Sean Connelly seconded.
Motion carried 5-0.***