



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED**

October 8, 2025 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners, Rudy Marconi, Geoffrey Morris

Absent: None

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He requested an agenda item addition to consider adoption of a municipal resolution allowing him to sign for receipt of a grant for approximately \$248,000 from Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The purpose of the grant is to repair collapsed drainage walls at Canterbury Lane.

Barbara Manners motioned to add the agenda item following the deer hunt discussion to consider the municipal resolution described above. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

1. Public Comment

Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, reminded the public that for Compassionate Ridgefield to become an official committee, several town charter requirements must be met.

2. Ellen Burns and Jessica Wilmot – Parking Authority Reappointments

- Ms. Burns shared that she would like to complete the on-going task of revising existing parking agreements. They are currently working on the Regency agreement.
- She is also focused on encouraging use of the municipal parking lot which allows full day free parking.
- She would like to fill the remaining two seats to have a complete five-person board.
- Maureen Kozlark asked if Ms. Burns has any ideas to encourage use of the municipal lot. She replied that parking agreements are being revised to include the obligation to inform employees to park in the municipal lot as well as reducing the number of permits sold that allow parking elsewhere.
- Ms. Wilmot shared that the group has recently discussed implementing a parking management system for the Bailey Avenue lot because the two-hour time limit is not working for some businesses. The group is in early discussions to consider what would work for that area. Sean Connelly asked that they aim for a cost neutral system.

- Geoffrey Morris suggested devising an incentive program to move cars to the municipal lot.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Ellen Burns and Jessica Wilmot to the Parking Authority for another term. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Request from the board of Compassionate Ridgefield to become an official committee overseen by the Board of Selectpersons

- a. Rudy Marconi explained that if approved, the BOS would appoint the committee members who would appoint their own officers. The committee would serve at the pleasure of this board. He added that as a member of Compassionate Ridgefield, he will recuse himself from this discussion and vote and asked Barbara Manners to lead the discussion.
- b. Geoffrey Morris recused himself from the discussion and vote as well.
- c. Maureen Kozlark requested procedural clarification regarding the public comment made earlier. Rudy Marconi stated that if a committee is added permanently, then town charter requires a town meeting. But any decision tonight, will be contingent upon charter compliance.
- d. Martha Morris provided the history, mission, and goals of the Compassionate Ridgefield group. She listed strategic initiatives including community involvement. She summarized that compassion is a practice as opposed to an activity that one completes and forgets.
- e. Maureen Kozlark asked for the committee size. Martha Morris replied that they are defined as an eleven-member group with eight members currently. However, she would prefer a smaller size committee.
- f. Sean Connelly asked what benefit is gained by official committee status. Martha Morris explained that while there is no specific benefit, town leadership will provide sustainability across generations and a stronger backbone for the compassionate work of the town.
- g. Public comments were heard in support of this request and in clarification of the committee's desire to be a standing committee or a permanent one as defined in the town charter. Martha Morris stated that for now they are pursuing status as a standing committee serving at the discretion of the current BOS to be approved as a standing committee every 4 years, concurrent with BOS terms. If the committee pursues permanent appointment, then it would go to a town meeting for an ordinance. After success in the community, it would then be added to the town charter at the next charter revision.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to establish Compassionate Ridgefield as a committee of the Town of Ridgefield, serving concurrently with the current BOS, contingent on a town meeting if it's required. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 with Marconi and Morris abstaining.

4. Deer Hunt

Rudy Marconi shared that James Coyle of the Conservation Commission submitted a letter to the BOS describing the deer hunt parameters established with, the Deer Management Implementation Committee (DMIC) for the next three years.

- a. The committee required the following; accurate signage at hunt locations to be reviewed by the Conservation Committee, adequate and timely notice to abutting and nearby neighbors before the hunting season opens, and hunting stands and structures to be removed immediately after the hunt.
- b. Seven town-owned open spaces are proposed for November 19, 2025 through January 31, 2026. All seven will allow archery and two of those will also allow for shotgun and muzzleloader.
- c. The program is very safe and keeps the deer population under control.
- d. Rudy Marconi added that the program was established due to economic impacts, Deer-auto accidents, and Lyme disease.
- e. Geoffrey Morris asked the state's role. Stef Zandri (DMIC) explained that the state manages the deer population, but the local agency implements the hunting program and tags the deer.
- f. Barbara Manners asked if permits are required? They are required.
- g. Sean Connelly asked if the schedule presented has any modifications from what was proposed last year. Mr. Zandri confirmed that there is consistency with the plans proposed in years past.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the deer hunt as recommended by the Conservation Commission. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-1, with Barbara Manners opposed.

5. Municipal resolution to authorize Rudy Marconi to sign acceptance of the STEAP grant.

Barbara Manners motioned to approve the resolution authorizing Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson, to sign acceptance of \$280,640 for the STEAP grant and fund the drainage repairs at Canterbury Lane. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes - September 17, 2025 Meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Selectpersons Report yielded and meeting adjourned to the Public Hearing.