Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED
October 21, 2026 at 6:30pm
ANNEX - large Conference Room, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

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.

Sean Connelly motioned to move up the Leaf Blower item to follow the Appointments item. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

1. **Public Comment**
   Vincent Giordano, 28 Fairview Avenue, shared that on Saturday, October 24th, Live Green Connecticut is holding their 4th annual EV road trip from Norwalk through Ridgefield to Kent. Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment will participate by hosting an EV car show at the Nod Hill Brewery from 10a-1p. He also stated that Honda has a new battery-powered commercial lawn care product line that will be reviewed by the Ridgefield Conservation Commission in Spring 2027.

   Michael Autuori, 197 Florida Road, read aloud his letter to the BOS, describing his concern and disagreement with development in Branchville spreading beyond the original half mile radius. He feels that the community, if asked to vote, would not support sacrificing the quality of life and open space characteristic of Ridgefield in exchange for higher population densities in the name of affordable housing.

   Sean McAvoy, 150 High Ridge Avenue, read aloud his letter to the BOS regarding the Leaf Blower Ordinance. He stated that the BOS spent three years and reached no committee consensus but still produced language that is contradictory and bias in favor of the town's maintenance responsibilities and large-scale commercial properties. The ordinance essentially applies only to the single home lots.

Andrea Beebe, 378 Main Street, stated that the Leaf Blower ordinance fine schedule is egregious.

Lisa Delgiudice, 99 North Salem Road, read her comments aloud in disagreement with a leaf blower ordinance. She believes law enforcement focus should be on drugs and car thefts. Town funds should be spent on another ambulance and firefighters.

Larry Manno, 47 Remington Road, read his comments aloud in disagreement with a leaf blower ordinance. The acquisition is cost prohibitive. He has been using his gas-powered leaf blower for 25 years without issues with neighbors.

Dominick Cerbone, 53 Main Street, shared his dissatisfaction with the BOS spending so much time on an interest of a few community members, seemingly a minority.

Arnie Nielsen, 2 Rustic Road, stated that he served on the Leaf Blower Task Force, and it was about gas-powered backpack leaf blowers, but the ordinance as written, could apply to any gas-powered equipment. The committee did reach unanimous agreement that there should be no exceptions, but the ordinance as written, includes exceptions.

2. Appointments and Reappointments

a. Aarna Pande and Dahlia Rodgers – Youth Commission

Chair Denise Dammer-Qualey introduced Miss Pande and Miss Dahlia. Miss Pande described her interests and community participation. The BOS expressed concerns for representing all students, utilizing the Theatre Barn as a meeting place to bring together students and Youth Commission members, and addressing vaping and drug abuse among students.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Aarna Pande to the Ridgefield Youth Commission. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Miss Rodgers shared that as a freshman at Greenwich Academy, she enjoys meeting all kinds of different people and hearing their thoughts and opinions. Her sister, a former member of the Youth Commission, taught her the importance of the youth being informed and staying connected to their town and local and global governance. The BOS further expressed concerns regarding nicotine abuse among students and a potential collaboration between Youth Commission and Prevention Council to address it.

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Dahlia Rodgers to the Youth Commission. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Elizabeth Yavendetti – Compassionate Ridgefield

Chair Martha Morris introduced Ms. Yavendetti. Ms. Yavendetti described her interests and community participation. The BOS discussed collaboration with other groups in town.

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Elizabeth Yavendetti to Compassionate Ridgefield. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sean Connelly left at this point.

c. Megan Roche – Ridgefield Prevention Council

Ms. Roche introduced herself as a Ridgefield native who left and returned. She feels the town has many resources. More town partnerships would help address issues facing the community.

Barbara Manners motioned to appoint Megan Roche to the Ridgefield Prevention Council. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).

3. Leaf Blower

Rudy Marconi reviewed edits suggested by Sean Connelly and Geoffrey Morris. The BOS debated the arguments in favor of, and opposing the ordinance. They believe the community will decide via a vote. They will hold a public hearing and then decide if the community will vote via town meeting or referendum. The public hearing will be held at East Ridge Middle School. The date will be decided at the November 4th BOS meeting.

4. Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) - overview

CMDA is a quasi-public authority established and funded by the state. They award infrastructure grants and loans to member municipalities for geographical areas fitting the CMDA profile. The purpose of the funding is to advance the goals of local economic development to provide additional housing in transit-oriented geographical areas. CMDA is restricted to the half mile radius of the train station but can also award funds for the half mile radius around the downtown. Therefore, Ridgefield has two geographical areas that could potentially qualify for funding. A half mile radius is approximately 500 acres of which only the areas not zoned for single-family residential might quality. CMDA would work with the town if zoning changes would be necessary to create a qualifiable zone. The BOS would hold a public hearing before they can approve by resolution to join CMDA and complete the work to certify a geographical area for development. All control stays with the town.

5. Supplemental State Budget Aid

(Mike Rettger, Board of Finance Chair) explained that for the town to realize the $67,579 supplemental aid in the FY2027 state budget, the BOS must by board resolution, accept the funding and amend the town budget.

Maureen Kozlark motioned that pursuant to Connecticut Public Act 26-130, the previously approved budgets for the Town of Ridgefield for fiscal year 2026-27 be modified as follows:

- ***Approved revenues be increased by $67,579***
- ***The Expenditure Budget for Town Operations be increased by $44,831***
- ***The Expenditure Budget for School Operations be increased by $22,748***

And, that the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Education be authorized to determine how to allocate these amounts at a line-item level within their previously submitted budget plans. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).

Maureen Kozlark motioned to accept the 2027-1 state municipal assistance supplemental aid of $67,579, and approve the transfer of $44,831 to the Roads/Infrastructure Maintenance budget line item and $22,748 to the Board of Education Operating Expenses. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).

6. **Refunds ($47,675.94)**

   Rudy Marconi shared that the assessor provided supporting documentation explaining that the $23,732.20 credit to Toyota Industries was for the change in leased forklifts from three to one.

   Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the tax refunds of $47,675.94. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).

7. **Approval of October 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

   Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as presented. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).

8. **Selectpersons Report**

   Rudy Marconi reported that COGG is responsible for developing a regional goal structure needs assessment for the eighteen communities. Ridgefield will have the opportunity to do our own assessment for the number of housing units we feel we need or go with the COGG assessment. Regional goals are due by June 2027.

   Aquarion Water Representative Board held the first meeting last night but it seemed that the presenters didn't have factual or exact information to present to the board.

   The town is working with a private donor on the restoration of two fountains and landscaping at another area. The fountain renovation requires an enclosed heated space for the work to be done.

   Battle of Ridgefield reenactment work has begun and committees will be formed. The town has been annually funding for this event.

   Rudy Marconi read an October 19 letter from West CoGG regarding housing and affordable housing.

   Rudy Marconi was invited to the district strategic planning process from the Ridgefield Public Schools. His participation cannot imply tacit support.

   Rudy Marconi withdrew the request for 221 Danbury Road because the owners haven't responded to any of the town's inquiries. The BOS will schedule an Executive Session for October 23 at 4pm to discuss an offer for 221 Danbury Road.

   Next year's meeting schedule was proposed for BOS review.

   The Town Administrator job has been posted. Laurie Hernandez will present H.R. policy changes on November 4.

Barbara Manners motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Connelly absent).