Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED
November 4, 2026 at 6:30pm
Town Hall – Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

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

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He requested that the Board add certain items to the agenda.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to add the reappointment of Debbie Prieger to the Commission for Accessibility as item 5c and add approval of a resolution to accept a DEEP grant for the Conservation Commission after item 7. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

1. **Public Comment**

   Lisa Deljiudice, 99 North Salem Road, read a statement aloud expressing concern that a petition allegedly signed by approximately 400 residents over the course of three years is moving forward to a town vote. She asked; did the BOS discuss with local lawn maintenance companies, as they said they would, the impact of the proposed restrictions. What was the feedback? Did they say the restrictions were practical and feasible? She also asked what is the enforcement? Will fines be assessed on the landscaper or the homeowner contracting the landscaper? What is the consideration given to the local landscape businesses. She also questioned the inconsistent application of the ordinance.

   Nancy Moore, 72 Golf Lane, asked if the ordinance could be crafted based on the successfully implemented ordinances of nearby towns.

   Andrea Beebe, 378 Main Street, asked if the final version is posted or if more changes are pending. Rudy Marconi explained that the language is not yet finalized.

   Donald Hulnick, 72 Golf Lane, asked to confirm that the draft posted on October 22 is not final. He added that there are many landscapers equipped with electric equipment and ready to come to work in this town.

Tom Mcmanus, 310 West Lane, stated that several misconceptions remain about leaf blowers. He distinguished between the noise level of backpack leaf blowers versus riding leaf blowers, and leaf blowers versus lawn mowers. He concluded that the restriction period isn't even leaf blowing season. You can use your leaf blowers for yard clean up from March through May and then leaves don't fall until mid-September. Both of these leaf blowing times are outside the restriction period.

Justin Hylwa, 32 Woodchuck Lane, asked if regulations will cascade into other noisy equipment such as gas-powered lawn mowers. He warned that this is a want and not a need.

2. **Capital Close-outs – Set Public Hearing and Town Meeting Dates**

Rudy Marconi explained that capital close-outs are budgeted items and costs that the town had approved and after completed, an overage remains in the budget for those capital items. The BOF must approve closing out the budget account, and the BOS determines the reallocation of the funds. The BOS must hold a public hearing and town meeting for the residents to vote to close out the budget item and transfer the remaining funds. Director of Finance, Ken Redmond, added that every few years, they review these accounts to determine if the expenditure has been completed. If so, the remaining funds cannot be used for anything else and must be transferred. The last time this review was completed was in 2022. The close-out totaled $800,000. This year, the close-out totals approximately $1,004,804 for expenditures through 2024. The board reviewed each close-out item. Mr. Redmond added that the goal is to budget as close as possible to actual because these expenses are bonded and we don't want debt service on funds we don't need. One homeowner asked that consideration be given to using the funds to lower the mil rate at the next budget cycle.

Geoffrey Morris motioned that the BOS recommend to the BOF; approval of the close-outs totaling $1,004,804 and allocating the funds to the future Capital Reserve Fund. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

3. **New Laws/Policies - Social Media Policy Update – HR Director, Laurie Fernandez**

Ms. Fernandez explained the new laws: Pay codes must be defined in a legend or chart which has been added to the employee handbook. The State of CT changed the required ADA notice for reasonable accommodations. AI employment decision law requires the town to review any procedures utilizing artificial intelligence and give notice to those affected that AI is used in the determination. Any surveillance must be disclosed to the surveilled parties. The Employee Handbook contains all the laws and town policies. Any new employee must sign receipt of the handbook at onboarding. Any updates are also distributed with signature receipt required. HR tracks the signature confirmations.

4. **Restated Pension Plan**

Pension Commission Chair, Christofer Christiansen explained that the commission updated and brought consistency to the plan provisions. One clause allows a previously vested plan participant to return to the plan as town employees after discontinuing serving as an elected officer. One homeowner, Justin Hylwa, 32 Woodchuck Lane, asked for an understanding of his own pension plan buyout as it compares to the alternative presented in this new clause.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to accept the restated Pension Plan. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

5. Appointments and Reappointments

a. Rick Klutey – Pension Commission Appointment-alternate member

Christofer Christiansen, Chair, and Rick Klutey were present. Mr. Klutey described his professional experience managing pensions and retirement plans. Maureen Kozlark asked how an alternate member functions in the group. Chair Christiansen explained that alternates participate in discussions but only vote if regular members are absent. Geoffrey Morris asked what items require a commission vote. Chair Christiansen explained that the investment policy statement is reviewed annually, and investments are decided.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to appoint Rick Klutey as an alternate to the Pension Commission. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manner absent).

b. Robert Roth – Tree Committee Reappointment

Tom Mcmanus, Chair, and Robert Roth were present. Mr. Roth has been on the committee for many years. He supports a tree canopy study because trees will help lower temperatures and clean the air. The town does have the Tree City USA certification. Chair Mcmanus stated that a canopy study was completed a few years ago. ***Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Robert Roth to the Tree Committee. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).***

c. Debbie Prieger – Commission for Accessibility reappointment

Don Ciota, Chair, and Debbie Prieger were present. She shared that she is semi-retired and would like to serve the community on this commission. Mr. Ciota shared future topics for the commission to address. Andrea Beebe asked for public education so that people understand the importance of not blocking handicap parking or parking in the striped spaces next handicap spaces. Lisa Deljuidice asked for clear signage that there is a designated space for adult changing tables at the recreation center.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Debbie Prieger to the Commission for Accessibility. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

6. CT Municipal Development Authority Resolution

David Kooris Of CMDA was present to address any questions regarding CMDA. The BOS discussed that there is no obligation or cost to join CMDA. The resolution doesn't commit the town to any projects or costs. It merely allows the town to partner with CMDA to explore any financial support that could assist in the development of a district such as Branchville, for example. Only projects that have been approved by the various town agencies could be considered for the program funding. The BOS agreed to hold a public hearing to further inform the community.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to hold a public hearing on November 18 at 7:30pm to inform the community about the CT Municipal Development Authority Resolution. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

7. Leaf Blower

Rudy Marconi reviewed changes suggested since the last draft was presented. Geoffrey Morris suggested that the BOS reach out to landscapers for feedback. Rudy Marconi reported that a few emails were received from the public regarding the language. Several members of the community asked what the process will be like before this is implemented. Rudy Marconi explained that it will be a long process to fine tune the language before it can go to a town vote. If voter approved, the BOS is now going to require town agency compliance the first year it goes into effect. The public will be subject to the ordinance in the second year.

8. New Item 7a. Resolution to accept DEEP grant for the Conservation Commission

Rudy Marconi read aloud the entire resolution. The grant is for work in open space at the four-acre parcel at the Florida refuge. This is a ten-year, controlled project.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the resolution. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

9. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. October 21, 2026 BOS Meeting

Maureen Kozlark suggested adding that Sean Connelly left at 7:30pm.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

b. October 23, 2026 BOS Special Meeting

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).

10. Selectpersons Report

Rudy Marconi allowed Pension Commission Chair Christofer Christiansen to further explain the language of the revised pension plan.

Rudy Marconi distributed a real estate update from Suzanne Brennan.

Rudy Marconi asked the BOS for thoughts regarding scheduling a meeting with the PSFC to discuss the purchase of the Danbury Road location by Parks and Recreation Center. Geoffrey Morris explained that the KBA won't have finalized plans for the committee before November 18.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).