



Ridgefield  
Economic &  
Community  
Development  
Commission

400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203.431-2700

Bob Knight – Chair  
Kay Gelfman – Vice Chair  
James Classey - Secretary  
Corrin Arasa  
Sean Dowd  
Jennifer Gioffre  
Peter Kearney  
Nadia Blair (elect)

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson  
ridgefieldct.gov

**Approved Special Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2025 at 3:00pm  
Ridgefield Public Library, 472 Main Street**

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm at the Ridgefield Library.

**In attendance:** Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, James Classey, Bob Knight, Peter Kearney, Sean Dowd, and Commissioner elect, Nadia Blair arrived. Guests in attendance were Glori Norwitt, Betsy Paynter, and Kirk Carr. Geoffrey Morris arrived at 4:05pm.

**Public Comment**

Kirk Carr distributed the Connecticut Main Street Center Assessment for the Town of Ridgefield that was conducted in 2023 along with the Ridgefield Ordinance that gives an overview of the purpose of the ECDC and its powers and duties.

**Strategic Planning**

Betsy Paynter of WESTCOG began by outlining what Economic Development is and highlighting the objective of expanding our grand list to increase our tax revenue.

The group participated in a SWOT analysis for the town: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Subsequently, the Commissioners participated in a visioning exercise of what we had envisioned Ridgefield to be like in 2035. Economic drivers, Commercial vs. Residential Growth, Collaboration amongst other EDC's, Entrepreneurship, etc.

Bob Knight motioned to break at 5:05pm. Jimmy Classey seconded. Meeting was called back to order at 5:27pm.

Identified SWOT Action Items and measured which areas the ECDC could help influence and the timeline in which it is obtainable. The four main buckets were as follows: Business Attraction, Business Retention/Expansion (BRE), Tourism & Cultural Activities, and Business District Support  
Determined short, medium, long-term goals as well as projects that are ongoing.

**Executive Session to Discuss ECDC Candidate Nominations**

An executive session was scheduled; however, the board did not convene in executive session.

Bob Knight motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:49pm. Kay Gelfman seconded. All in favor.