



**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

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2025 at 6:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm in the large conference room in Town Hall.

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, James Classey, Bob Knight, Peter Kearney, and Sean Down by mobile phone. Commissioner elect, Nadia Blair arrived at 7:23pm. Guests in attendance were Pamme Jones, Lisa Hobbs.

Announcements

Next meeting Nov 3, 2025

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Approval of September Minutes:

Commissioner Gioffre motioned that we approve the September Meeting Minutes without changes. Seconded by Commissioner Classey. All in favor.

Recap of Recent Events / Info

Bob & Kay attended the WestCOG Info Sharing and Networking Event on Tuesday 9/30. Great networking event to meet with and build relationships with other local town EDC's. Of note, Town of Redding is working on redevelopment of Wire Mill with multi family housing.

Planning & Zoning – Request from Rob Hendrix to the ECDC -when doing referrals for specific requests, to only opine if it's positive or negative for the community of Ridgefield. Also looking for town boards to provide input on current regulations.

Farmers Market – successful 2nd year with an increase from 9 biweekly markets to 17 weekly markets. On average, each weekly market had ~1000 attendees and an average of \$20,000 for vendors. Have received very positive feedback from the community.

Free Business Owner Workshop – From Chaos to Clarity – Wednesday November 12th from 4-7pm at Greenwood Features. Hosted by Bethel ECDC and Frank Lockwood (owner of Greenwood Features, Reverie Brewery and Focal Point Business)

Placemaking Summit - The Power of Place: Strategies for Downtowns and Main Streets on 10/8 from 8-10am Shubert Theater in New Haven. Great opportunity to learn more about how placemaking fosters connection and community activation – perfect for CT Cultural Districts.

Chamber of Commerce has a gathering Thursday Oct 9th from 5-7pm at the Lounsbury house to welcome Annie Fandl into her new role as Executive Director.

RMBC is hosting pitch to connect to practice your elevator pitch speech this Thursday, 10/9 from 8-9am at Town Hall. This is a good way to prepare for their speed networking event on November 13th.

Fall in Love with Ridgefield this Saturday October 11th 10am-2pm on Main Street.

Tax Assessor

Chair Knight motioned to add a special meeting on October 22 at 3pm at the Ridgefield Public Library. Vice Chair Gelfman seconded. All in favor.

Al Garzi will come to our offsite meeting. Plan of conservation and development (nonresidential), portion of grand list should be 25%. Currently we are at 12%-15%.

Founders Hall

Chair Knight motioned to move to the November meeting. Commissioner Gioffre seconded. All in favor.

Theater Barn Bond Request

Pamme Jones and Lisa Hobbs spoke about the recent renovation project at the Theater Barn. They have asked the ECDC for a letter of support for the theater barn bond request.

Commissioner Gelfman motions to provide a positive letter of support. Commissioner Classey seconded. All in favor. Kay to draft a letter to support.

ECDC Candidate Interviews

Mike Gelormino has lived in Ridgefield for 9 years. He is the senior director of communications at White Plains Hospital. He expressed interest in the tax assessor topic, as well as supporting the healthcare round table initiative. Commissioners discussed his ideas and how his profession may align with these.

Commissioner Knight will abstain from voting on Mike as he has an outside business relationship with him.

Tiger Shark Tank 4

Commissioner Dowd provided the following updates: Judges have been confirmed. Presenters have been confirmed. Two High School presenters during intermission have been confirmed. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Marketing:

Commissioner Gioffre provided an update that the marketing calendar is nearing completion. Commissioner Arasa and Gioffre have proposed a quarterly local business forum to help these businesses connect with each other and build a stronger business community.

Bazaar on Bailey Avenue idea to feature business in Ridgefield that do not have a presence on Main St.

ECDC Annual Report:

Kay Gelfman submitted the Annual Report to Town Hall.

Ridgefield Connect

A successful event at GPC in September with over 80 attendees. Working on our next business for Q1 of 2026.

Strategic Planning

Setup for Ridgefield Public Library October 22nd at 3pm. Al Garzi will be in attendance at the top of the meeting.

Executive Session

Commissioner Gioffre motions to enter executive session at 8:47pm to discuss candidates. Commissioner Classey seconded. All in favor. ECDC came out of executive session at 9:17pm.

Candidates were discussed and the board agreed to table the discussion until after the strategic meeting.

Chair Knight motions to adjourn at 9:18pm. Commissioner Kearney seconded. All in favor.