



**Ridgefield  
Economic &  
Community  
Development  
Commission**

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

Corrin Arasa  
James Classey  
Sean Dowd  
Kay Gelfman  
Jennifer Gioffre  
Peter Kearney  
Bob Knight

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson  
[ridgefieldct.gov](http://ridgefieldct.gov)

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2025 at 6:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm in the large conference room in Town Hall.

**In attendance:** Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, Sean Dowd, Peter Kearney, James Classey, and Bob Knight via cellular phone until 6:40pm, when he arrived by person. Guests were Daniel Rauchwerk, Nadia Blair, Bob Sperry, Dan O'Brien, Michael Gelormino

Bob Knight motioned to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss potential candidates. Seconded by Sean Dowd. All in favor.

**Announcements**

Next meeting October 6, 2025

Approval of August Minutes: Commissioner Dowd motioned that we approved the August Meeting Minutes without changes. Seconded by Bob Knight. All in favor.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

### **Recap of Recent Events / Info**

WestCOG is holding an “Info Sharing and Networking” Lunch for economic development professionals at the Granite Church on Tues September 30 from 1:00 to 3:00pm.  
The Cultural Alliance of Western CT is holding their “Business Supports the Arts” Luncheon on Friday October 10 at 11:30am at the Amber Room.

During the Town’s August revenue meeting, former chair Glori Norwitt met with First Selectperson Rudy Marconi – one interesting statistic was that 30% of home sales during July were all cash.

### **Selection of Chair and Secretary**

Knight motions to move selection to the end of the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dowd. All in favor.

### **Interview of Daniel Rauchwerk**

Daniel is a new resident in Ridgefield. He is a marketing professional within the marketing tech /marketing ops space. Recently completed his EMBA at Yale. Commissioners discussed his ideas how to best leverage his skills in the marketing space along with a marketing clinic for local businesses.

### **Interview of Nadia Blair**

Nadia moved to back to the area from Austin, Texas in 2021. She has a Master of Public Policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Her and her husband own and manage Flobees. Commissioners discussed her ideas of bringing local business owners / entrepreneur together. Interest in liaisioning with P&Z as well as helping with the setup process for new business in town.

### **Ridgefield Connect**

This Wed September 10 at GPC. Peter has done a final walk through and ready to go. 70 registrants as of tonight.

### **Tiger Shark Tank 4**

Judges announced: Jay Walker, Suni Harford, Chris Bishop and Frank Micalizzi.

The format has been finalized. Over 20 business have expressed interest in pitching and will be narrowed down to 5 finalists. We have over 10 sponsors.

Suggestion: During the intermission to have 2-3 High School student pitches

### **Marketing**

Consultant Jonathan Winn has updated the website at ridgefieldct.com. He is available to make a Ridgefield Connect logo, and also to assist with Tiger Shark Tank.

Motion by Jimmy Classey to reimburse Glori Norwitt for paying \$600 to Winn City Studios LLC invoice for past and future services and through October 31, 2025. Seconded by Kay Gelfman. All in favor.

### **Healthcare Roundtable**

Commissioner Knight has asked for someone to take over the Healthcare Roundtable. We will look to have one of the new commissioners to take it on.

### **Planning & Zoning Updates**

Guest Dan O'Brien provided an update on behalf of the Historic district commission for their report regarding the proposed East Ridge Historic District. The State historic preservation unanimously accepted the report. P&Z accepted as well.

Motion for the ECDC to accept the Report by Kay Gelfman. Seconded by Sean Down. All in favor.

The Aldridge Art Museum was denied by P&Z for hosting events in its sculpture garden.

### **Theater Barn**

Commissioner Arasa will follow up with Pamme Jones regarding the bond request.

### **Annual Report**

Motion by Kay Gelman to finalize the draft Annual Report. Seconded by Sean Dowd. All in favor.

Kay Gelfman will submit the Annual Report to Town Hall before October 1.

### **Selection of Chair and Secretary**

Knight motions to add a vice president position to the officers list. Seconded by Commissioner Classey. All in favor.

The Commissioners elected the following new ECDC Officers:

Chair: Bob Knight

Vice Chair: Kay Gelfman (new position, not required by charter)

Secretary: Jimmy Classey

Kay motions to open an executive session at 8:35pm to discuss potential candidates. Seconded by Bob Knight. All in favor. ECDC came out of executive session at 8:55pm.

The Commissioners note that both applicants to the ECDC are very well qualified, and both would bring needed and special skills. With that said, after rigorous debate, the ECDC will recommend Nadia Blair to the BOS. The ECDC will continue to discuss and interview candidates through the fall to fill the remaining vacancy.

Bob Knight motions to end the meeting at 8:58. Jen Gioffre seconds. All in favor.