



**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 Special Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025 at 3:00pm
At the Ridgefield Public Library**

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm in the large conference room in Town Hall.

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.