



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203-431-2700

Glori Norwitt - Chair

Geoffrey Morris – Secretary

Sean Dowd

Kay Gelfman

Jennifer Gioffre

Brittney Howell

Bob Knight

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
ridgefieldct.gov

Economic & Community Development Commission

Approved Minutes

February 3, 2025, at 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the small conference room in Town Hall.

In attendance: Chair Glori Norwitt, Secretary Geoffrey Morris, Commissioners Sean Dowd, Kay Gelfman

Guests: Peter Olson, Mark Riser, Peter Kearney, Jim Classey, Tori Dinkle

Announcements

Next meeting March 3, 2025

Approval of January Minutes. Morris motioned, and Norwitt 2nd, that we approve the January meeting minutes. No changes, and all in favor.

Public Comment

Peter Olson, attorney, reported on his client's plan to develop a 20-unit apartment building on 43 Danbury Road, replacing the building that currently houses Red Rooster restaurant.

Recap of Recent Events/Info

Gelfman, Knight, Morris and Norwitt attended the BOS meeting on January 29 to discuss the ECDC's Budget Request for FY2026.

On January 8, 2025, Gioffre and Norwitt were re-appointment by the BOS to the ECDC for a two-year term.

The State of the Town Address is on Wednesday February 12, at Lounsbury House.

Motion by Norwitt to allocate up to \$200 for the cost of ECDC Commissioners to attend the event. Seconded by Dowd, all in favor.

The Ridgefield Chamber "Women's Forum" is on Friday, March 28, at the Salem Golf Club from 9am – 2pm. The keynote speaker is Gayle Meyers, who has expertise in digital media, marketing, and technology. Dee Dee Colabella will receive the Woman of the Year award.

Norwitt spoke with owners of Anna & Jack's Treehouse, a daycare/preschool in Larchmont, New Rochelle, and Pelham, which is considering opening in Ridgefield.

Norwitt attended a Zoom meeting with First Selectperson Marconi and Charles Robbins with Congressman Jim Himes, to discuss the Town's proposal for parking spots around the U.S. Post Office.

Norwitt attended a virtual listening session organized by Congressman Jim Himes with Municipal leaders on January 31. The goal of the listening session was to understand the potential impact and challenges faced by CT Towns as a result of the federal funding pause earlier that week.

WestCOG released its *Regional Agriculture Farm Viability Study* which provides a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing farm sustainability, broadening economic opportunities for farmers, and bolstering resilient food systems across the region.

The Ridgefield Neighbors & Newcomers Club will hold a Nonprofit Fair on Sunday, April 27, at Yanity Gym from 2pm to 5pm. Contact president@ridgefieldnewcomers.org for more info.

Interview of Peter Kearney

Candidate Peter Kearney addressed the commission and took questions. An HR professional, he has lived in Ridgefield for four years, and has three children. Very active in many aspects in business activity and networking. Dowd motioned, Morris 2nd that we recommend Peter Kearney to the commission. All in favor. Norwitt will contact the BOS re Kearney's application.

Healthcare Working Group (Knight)

Tabled.

ECDC/Arts Council Collaboration on Banners (Morris)

Morris explained the history and relationship of ECDC and Ridgefield Arts Council establishing the lightpost program – which allows non-profit arts groups to hang banners in the downtown area and the Cops Hill area. We established rules, a signup process, a schedule, approval process, and more. Morris

motions, Norwitt 2nd that we reaffirm our leadership role along with the Arts Council for the lightpost banners in the Downtown area and Coppins Hill.

Marketing (Gioffre, Morris, Howell)

Tory Dinkle is assisting the ECDC to consolidate spreadsheets and email contacts into a Constant Contact or MailChimp so that the ECDC can more easily contact and distribute information to local businesses. She was in attendance and we discussed the logistics of getting her access to data, etc. We established a process and protocol for building lists and establishing email schedules.

Gioffre provided content to VisitCT.com for the new Cultural District section of the state tourism website.

Norwitt motions that we hire art designer Jonathan Winn at \$60/hour to do design or other marketing projects up to a cost of \$1,200. Dowd 2nd, all in favor.

Cultural District (Norwitt, Morris)

See below.

Cultural District Award (Morris, Gelfman)

Morris put out a press release requesting nominations for the 2025 Cultural District Award to the public. We asked for submissions by February 15, and we will vote on the nominations at the March 3, 2025 meeting. The award will be presented at the Ridgefield Arts Council Behind the Scenes Ceremony in May 2025 at The Ridgefield Playhouse.

Assistance With Film Locations (Gelfman)

A Press Release was distributed noting that the ECDC now has [a dedicated webpage](#) to provide assistance to anyone seeking to film in the Town.

Planning & Zoning Update (Gelfman)

On January 7, 2025, Norwitt submitted to P&Z the ECDC's response to P&Z's proposed Temporary & Limited Development Moratorium. ECDC opposed the moratorium, in a vote in our January 2024 meeting. P&Z's Public Hearing on the issue is expected to be March 4.

Meeting ended at 8:25 pm.