



**Ridgefield  
Economic &  
Community  
Development  
Commission**

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

Bob Knight – Chair  
Kay Gelfman – Vice Chair  
James Classey - Secretary  
Commissioner Arasa  
Nadia Blair  
Sean Dowd  
Jennifer Gioffre  
Peter Kearney  
David Perlmutter

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson  
ridgefieldct.gov

**Meeting Minutes**

**June 1st, 2026 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

**Call to Order:**

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Nadia Blair, James Classey, Kay Gelfman, Jenn Gioffre, Peter Kearney, Bob Knight, David Perlmutter, and consultant candidate Jessica Medoff

Announcements: Next meeting is July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Guest Christine Santori:**

Was not able to attend

**Recap of Recent Events / Info**

ECDC still has an open seat on the commission – CD Representation. Next up: VC/PE candidate.

Make Music Day is Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Kearney attended the CT Small Business Summit. He ran into Kathryn Marx, the District Director for the SBA of Connecticut, who has offered to help the ECDC in any way she can.

Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> – West COG Economic Development Regional SWAT at Maritime Center.

Chamber of Commerce hosted a golf outing earlier today.

**Approval of Minutes - May Meeting:**

The board reviewed the minutes and Commissioner Gioffre brought forth two corrections regarding the Recap of Events Agenda item. A motion was made by Perlmutter and seconded by Knight to approve the meeting minutes as amended. All in favor.

*Note: Separately, The June agenda had this line item listed as “Approval of Minutes: April Minutes. The minutes that were to be approved were the May meeting minutes.*

**US EDA Grant Program: AI Upskill Pilot Program NOFO**

Chairman Knight drew attention to this funding opportunity to upskill eligible applicants in AI workforce training. The EDA has made \$25 million available for this program.

**25/26 Fiscal Year Budget:**

All commissioners to submit any outstanding project invoices before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Cultural District:**

Commissioner Arasa reported the following: Launched CD Instagram, already have followers; June & July Content Calendar is live; the CD is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way to finalizing their new logo; the traffic box program is under way with the DOT and the CD workgroup has put out a call for 3 separate artists to participate.

**Cultural District Award Mural:**

Pivot from sculpture to mural.

**Marketing:**

Commissioner Gioffre working with Terry Macary of Western CT Tourism District on best practices for marketing. Gioffre connected with Chamber Executive Director Annie Fandl to determine ways for ECDC and Chamber to work together.

**P/T Consultant:**

The Commission invited Jessica Medoff, the applicant for the P/T Consultant position to introduce herself and share her background. She is currently a communications specialist at Brewster SD with years of project management and stakeholder engagement experience.

Commissioner Classey motioned to hire Jessica a P/T Consultant for the 26/27 Fiscal Budget Year. Perlmutter seconded. All in favor.

**Ridgefield Connect:**

Another successful Ridgefield Connect event. The moderated panel format was highly praised by attendees as well as commission members. The next event will be in the Fall, highlighting The Prospector Popcorn business and manufacturing operations.

**Tiger Shank Tank:**

Divvying up responsibilities to interested Commission members.

**Planning & Zoning:**

No Update.

**North Village/Route 7 Safety – Referral Letter:**

No letter will be issued; however, the Commission feels a strong need to help drive a solution to the public safety issue with constant (some fatal) accidents on the Route 7 Corridor. Commissioner Blair is leading the charge on how we can engage the right people to take action.

Commissioner Gioffre motioned to adjourn. Perlmutter seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.