



**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
Nadia Blair
Jennifer Gioffre
Pamme Jones
Peter Kearney
David Perlmutter**

**Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
ridgefieldct.gov**

Meeting Minutes

October 5th, at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM.

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, James Classey (Secretary), Kay Gelfman (Vice Chair), Jenn Gioffre, Pamme Jones, Peter Kearney, and David Perlmutter. Absent: Bob Knight and Nadia Blair. Guest Neil Chollick was in attendance.

Announcements: Next meeting is November 2nd, 2026 and will be held in the large conference room in Town Hall at 6:30pm.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Perlmutter moved to approve the September Meeting Minutes.

Second: Arasa

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Approval of Annual Report

Motion: Perlmutter moved to approve the annual report.

Second: Gioffre

Vote: Unanimously approved

Commercial Real Estate Report & Tracking:

Commissioner Perlmutter reported, as of September 29, 2026, according to Costar, the vacancy for all real estate asset classes in Ridgefield, Fairfield County and all of Connecticut are as follows:

Ridgefield: 20.7%

Fairfield County: 30.15%

Connecticut: 48.61%

Community & Cultural District:

First working session with the consultant. Commissioner Jones spent additional time with the consultant to develop a strategy for the Cultural District to further define and frame the path forward for the District.

Several commissioners stated that a “Fall In Love with Ridgefield” day on 10/3, was a huge success. From the Farmers Market to Ballard Park, the town was filled with pedestrians.

Sugar Hollow District:

Chairman Knight sent a letter to WestCOG requesting their support and partnership with help in developing a master plan for Sugar Hollow District.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation:

Tiger Shark Tank

The application window for Tiger Shark Tank 5 closed on October 1. There were 27 applications, and selection will be difficult due to the quality of the submissions. The event will be held at the Ridgefield Playhouse on October 27. A business networking event is open to all starting at 5:30, the contest itself starts at 6:30.

Ridgefield Connect

Commissioners discussed adjusting 1Q27 event slated for the Lounsbury house and discussed alternatives for business to spotlight.

Commissioner Kearney reported that the last event at Prospector Popcorn was a huge success.

Marketing & Administration:

The ECDC Instagram account continues to gain followers/traction with posts

Recap of Recent Events & New Business:

Farmers Market – this is the fourth year, and the second year of weekly events. Foot traffic of ~1000 people every week. Market has gone from 4 hours to 3 hours, and each week has generated between 20-25k, which is reported to be stronger than Danbury and Norwalk markets. The three farms in Ridgefield have generated 25-30k per farm over the season. Some vendors that have spots both here and at the Westport farmers market have now reported Ridgefield to be their #1 market.

Gelfman will send a doodle poll for a strategic planning session. This will be open to the public.

The Cultural Alliance of Western CT will host their annual Business Supports the Arts Lunch on Oct 9th at the Amber room in Danbury.

There is a Film Shoot Inquiry for the CT Lottery

Chair Knight is working on the Volunteer Intake Forms and Business Disaster Recovery Plan

Executive Session:

The Commission did not enter into executive session.

Motion: Perlmutter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Gelfman

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.