



Ridgefield Conservation Commission Annual Appeal 2022



Be a part of the future. For almost 60 years, our mission is habitat preservation, open space acquisition, and trail maintenance for over 300 properties for future generations to enjoy.



100% of your donation supports our Open Space Conservation Fund. The donations we receive go towards new purchases in support of this goal.



You can make a difference. While the Town funds our day-to-day operations, we rely on the generosity of our neighbors to purchase open space land.

Dear Neighbor:

We have had a very busy year. These are just some of our important accomplishments:

- **Declaration of Open Space** – After several years of research, we identified and protected in perpetuity about 1,200 acres of 100 Town-owned open space parcels ensuring that they would forever remain undeveloped.
- **Natural Resource Inventory Update** – We are updating the NRI for the Town. As part of this project, we provide citizen science opportunities for Ridgefielders and bring WestConn students and faculty in as volunteers.
- **Open Space Acquisition** – We acquired several parcels of open space. The largest was that of the 52-acre former Boy Scout property at Pine Mountain, where we are developing a series of new trails.
- **Native Plant Policy** – We prepared a Town Policy requiring that all new plantings on Town property be native species in our efforts to control the spread of invasive species. Our web site includes a list of native plants to consider.
- **Trail Maintenance and Storm Cleanup** – With reports from our Ridgefield Rangers, we were able to find and clear many dead and fallen trees, and repair damaged bridges and bog walkways.
- **McKeon Farm** – We installed several thousand feet of new fencing around the property and removed 1,000 feet of invasive plants along the stone walls. The farming methods used by Henny Penny Farm have improved the condition of those pastures grazed by the sheep, thus improving biodiversity in the soil, flora, and fauna.
- **Bird Watching** – We hosted several bird walks; most recently, a weekend of raptor counting was conducted at Ridgefield High School where spectacular numbers of raptors were seen flying overhead.

If you would like to learn more about these activities, please visit our website (www.ridgefieldct.org/conservation-commission) and, in particular, read our newsletters. Please email us if you would like to receive our newsletters.

Thank you, from all of us: **James Coyle**, Chairman, and our commission members:

Roberta Barbieri
Benjamin Nissim

Jack Kace
Peter Nichols

Erik Keller
Matt Sharp

Jean Linville
Kitsey Snow

Jim Liptack
Allan Welby

Please send this form with your generous donation to the **Open Space Conservation Fund**, Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street. All contributions are fully tax deductible. If your company offers a Matching Gifts Program, please include the form. For donations of \$100 or more, you will receive a copy of our 2016 *Walk Book*.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Contribution Amount: \$ _____