



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

February 6, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein
Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle
Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow

The following members were absent:

Tim Bishop	Dan Levine	Ben Oko
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Beth Peyser and Attorney James Jowdy were also in attendance.

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. TREASURER REPORT

a) Annual Appeal Update – Mr. Brewster reported that \$26,528 has been donated by 191 donors with an average donation of \$138.89. Last year at this time, \$26,510 was received from 167 donors with an average donation of \$158.75.

3. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

a) 20 Mopus Bridge – Attorney Jowdy presented aerial photography, assessor field card information and personal testimonials supporting the landowner's claim that the shed pre-dated the 1993 Conservation Easement. Mr. Jowdy will forward his findings to the Commission for further review.

b) Report by Conservation Enforcement Officer

- Bobby's Court – The Conservation Enforcement Officer sent certified and regular mail notices to six landowners abutting the open space explaining that dumping on the open space has occurred and is a violation of open space rules.
 - 23 Stonewall Lane – There is a probable violation of an iron fence being located on the conservation easement. Ms. Snow will investigate other nearby properties to determine if additional homeowners are in violation.
 - 795 North Salem Road – Mr. Reddington's 30-day extension ends in February.
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4. OPEN SPACE

a) Lakeside Drive Donation – The Public Hearing is Feb. 8th and Town Meeting on Feb. 22. The decision to perform an environmental study will be addressed at the Public Hearing.

b) McKeon Grant – Ms. Snow and Whitney Freeman met with an archeologist and NRCS representative to discuss the well. The NRCS has requested some additional language in the town lease regarding seeding and tillage. This modified lease language will be addressed at the BOS meeting on February 8. The NRCS also indicated that a fence at a 15-foot radius around the well should be provided on the site.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Feb. 7 – Mr. Pilch
Feb. 14 – Mr. Cronin
Feb. 21 – Mr. Kace
Mar. 7 – Mr. Levine
Mar. 14 – Ms. Snow
Mar. 21 – Ms. Baker

b) New & Continued Business

824 Ethan Allen Highway – Mr. Brewster reported that the project consultant agreed with RCC recommendations with the exception of buffer width. The RCC recommended a 15-foot buffer while P&Z/IWB agreed to the 5-foot buffer proposed in the plans. Mr. Pilch will attend the P&Z/IWB meeting on February 7 and re-emphasize the importance of a 15-foot buffer.

Casagmo Dredging Material Disposal – Ms. Peyser mentioned her conversation with a highway department employee regarding dredging material disposal. She was told the material will be delivered and stored behind the highway building. The material will be sifted to remove rocks and garbage and then used as fill around town. It is not known if any chemical testing is being done. The discussion will continue at the next meeting when Mr. Bishop is in attendance.

6. FUNDING PROGRAMS

a) 319 Grant – Mr. Pilch and Ms. Snow met with Mr. Marconi and Diana Van Ness about DEEP grants. Mr. Pilch believes that a storm water treatment area near Ridgebury School is a viable grant project. Ms. Lake will provide Mr. Pilch with school site plans. The town's original proposal for a project replacing leaking manhole covers was discouraged by the DEEP because it didn't provide pollution mitigation.

7. CONTINUING TOPICS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

- a) **RCC Reappointments** – The reappointments of Ms. Baker, Mr. Brewster, and Mr. Cronin are on the February 8, 2017 BOS agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Entered at 9:05 and exited at 9:25pm.

After a briefing by Chairman Coyle, Jack Kace, and Carroll Brewster in Executive Session, a MOTION was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, giving a vote of confidence and full support for the actions taken/to be taken regarding the possible Whitbeck litigation.

Mr. Coyle plans to meet with Mr. Marconi and Chief Roche to discuss issues that arose from the January 23rd meeting involving the Deer Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake