



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 22, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Tim Bishop
Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle
Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow

The following members were absent:

Eric Beckenstein	Dan Levine	Ben Oko
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Beth Peyser, Joe Fossi, Charlie Taney, and Jack Corley were also in attendance. Mr. Brewster and Mr. Coyle co-chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

a) George Washington Highway Update – Ms. Snow found additional possible violations. Ms. Peyser will consult the as-built plans for the properties to determine whether the possible violations are in the conservation easement area and investigate three other adjoining parcels on the north side of George Washington Highway. Once these investigations are completed, the plan is to issue Notices of Probable Violations to the property owners (possibly up to eight of them) and request that they meet with the Enforcement Committee of the commission to discuss the issues and possible solutions.

b) Hans Williams Agreement – Mr. Cronin asked Ms. Lake to set up a meeting to discuss Mr. Williams 2017 Agreement and haying/liming the fields at McKeon. Mr. Brewster and Ms. Snow will also attend. The alternative to Williams would be Joe Badaracco who wants a decision by April 1

as to whether we will proceed with him on the hay mowing. Mr. Badaracco has requested a five-year agreement and we need to check whether such an agreement will require BOS approval.

c) NEMBA Proposal – Mr. Cronin met with members of NEMBA to discuss reconfiguring trails in Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain to control impact on vernal pools and minimize unauthorized trails. Mr. Cronin will continue to work with NEMBA on the project.

3. NRVT – Executive Director, Charlie Taney, presented an update on the proposed 28-mile, multi-use trail that will run from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk to Rogers Park in Danbury. A meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2017 at the Ridgefield Library to discuss planning for the development of the Ridgefield portion. Ms. Snow, Mr. Cronin, and Mr. Coyle plan to attend.

4. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

a) Woodcock Nature Center Collaboration – Ms. Snow and Mr. Cronin shared a joint project between the RCC, Woodcock Nature Center, and Ridgefield Schools. Fourth grade students will study changes to vernal pools located in town during the months of March, April, and May. Ms. Snow will inform the commission when dates/locations are finalized.

b) Scout Troops – Mr. Bishop reached out to local Boy Scouts to introduce the RCC as a resource for possible upcoming scout projects. Commissioners will submit project ideas to Mr. Bishop for future use.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

- Mar. 7 – Mr. Levine
- Mar. 14 – Ms. Snow
- Mar. 21 – Ms. Baker

b) New & Continued Business

Storm Water Regulations – Joe Fossi proposed a collaboration between P&Z/IWB, RCC, and the Town Engineer to review the state’s new storm water regulations and how Ridgefield fits into the new guidelines. Mr. Fossi stated that there has been significant push back from residents after the town passed new regulations. Mr. Fossi will schedule a meeting for next week. Messrs. Pilch, Bishop, and Kace will represent the RCC.

824 Ethan Allen Highway – The plan was approved allowing the five-foot buffer, not the 15-foot buffer recommended by the RCC. The vegetative buffer serves to infiltrate the sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen run off, and is critically important to the health of the Norwalk River. The wider the buffer, the more the water quality is improved.

Casagmo Dredging Material Disposal – Mr. Bishop explained the high costs involved with soil testing and will investigate state regulations regarding this issue.

Ms. Baker confirmed the bi-annual meeting between RCC and P&Z/IWB is set for March 10, 2017. She will include Casagmo dredging material disposal, clean fill and storm water regulations, and the buffer issue at Golf Performance Center on the agenda.

6. FUNDING PROGRAMS

- a) **319 Grant** – Mr. Pilch and Ms. Snow will not have enough time to apply for the grant this year but anticipate finding a suitable project for next year.
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7. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Commissioners will check their availability for the upcoming CAWS and CLCC conferences.

Ms. Snow reported that UConn Clear offered 2 webinars last week:

The MS4 webinar is available at: clear.uconn.edu/webinars/CLEARseries17/road-salt.htm

The Road Salt Webinar is at: clear.uconn.edu/webinars/CLEARseries16/ms4.htm

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake