



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

May 3, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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| Susan Baker | Carroll Brewster |
| Jim Coyle | Dave Cronin |
| Jack Kace | Dan Levine |
| Alan Pilch | Kitsey Snow |

The following members were absent: Eric Beckenstein, Tim Bishop, and Ben Oko.

Also in attendance were Beth Peyser, Ranger Cathy Brown, and Jeffrey McDougal of William Seymour and Associates.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 17, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

20 Mopus Bridge – A letter was sent to Attorney Jowdy explaining the RCC's decision on the easement violation. The shed will be allowed to stay in its current location but cannot be rebuilt or repaired. In addition, no dumping, mowing or animal grazing will be allowed in the easement area.

82 Canterbury Lane – A follow-up letter was sent to the property owner on April 5, 2017 stating the fencing can remain, no structures will be allowed and that the RCC will work with the property owner, at his request, on invasive removal and trail development in the open space.

George Washington Highway – Ms. Peyser has heard from five of the seven residents abutting the easement area that they will attend the meeting on May 9, 2017 at 7:30pm.

West Mountain Reed – A ranger noticed yard waste dumped in open space behind a resident's stonewall. Ms. Peyser will send a letter to a property owner explaining open space rules and regulations.

3. OPEN SPACE

a) Tree Planting – Ballard Park tree donation/planting will be revisited in the fall. Several rangers and friends of the commission have committed to take plants from Ben's Highstead donation. Mr. Levine will send out a reminder asking anyone interested to contact the RCC within the next week.

b) McKeon Farm – Ms. Snow reported that the orchard and middle field have been aerated and she is waiting on liming estimates. Ms. Freeman's sheep arrive on Tuesday. Mr. Cronin mentioned that the new apple trees need improved protection. Mr. Levine will ask the rangers for help on Tuesday, May 9 at 10am.

c) Unauthorized Bike Trails – Mr. Cronin presented a map of the new trail constructed by NEMBA that is ready to be blazed. The group is now working on a trail to Bennetts pond. Ranger Cathy Brown offered to provide the RCC with unmarked trails found in Hemlock Hills.

d) Trail Maintenance – Mr. Coyle suggests the RCC begin developing a long term plan for trail maintenance.

4. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

May 16 – Mr. Cronin (RLL Ballfield)

June 6 – Mr. Kace

June 20 – Mr. Pilch/Ms. Baker

b) New & Continued Business

West Branchville Sub-division – Mr. McDougal discussed the conceptual subdivision that straddles both Redding and Ridgefield. He asked the RCC to consider a fee in lieu of open space due to the condition and small size of the three lots.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to accept the fee in lieu of open space for the subdivision.

RLL Ballfield – Members of the RCC visited the site on Friday, April 28th. Mr. Pilch's concerns regarding the number of parking spaces, impact to wetlands, and the NRVTA trail location were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED to submit Mr. Pilch's comments (as amended by Mr. Coyle re the NRVTA Trail) to P&Z/IWB on behalf of the RCC.

40 Mountain Road – The after-the-fact wetlands application for structures within the wetland area was discussed at the May 2nd P&Z/IWB meeting. Mr. Brewster and Mr. Pilch attended the meeting and reported that the property owner will be required to relocate the playscape and the shed to more desirable locations on the property. Unfortunately, discussion of the application was scheduled before the RCC could meet to review and submit comments.

55 Old Quarry – The project has been peer reviewed and approval is expected with minor changes. The RCC feels strongly that, even in projects with peer review, RCC comments regarding the protection of wetlands and watercourses should receive due consideration as well.

BOS May 10, 2017 Meeting – Ms. Snow will come up with additional guidelines to livestock management and send the BOS a letter with our changes.

5. CONTINUING TOPICS

- a) **Wooster Work Day** – Mr. Pilch and Ms. Snow will select plants for the students to plant at the Pine Mountain parking area prior to the scheduled hike.
 - b) **Summer Workers** – Ms. Snow has interviewed one applicant. Ms. Lake has received 3 other applications and will schedule interviews.
 - c) **Stormwater/Drainage Training** – Mr. Pilch was politely asked and agreed to educate interested RCC members on stormwater regulations and practices at a time/place tbd.
 - d) **NRVTA** – Several members of the RCC walked the proposed 2-mile section on Sunday, April 29th. Mr. Taney will attend the May 15th RCC meeting.
 - e) **MS4 Application** – Ms. Snow has organized a meeting Monday, May 8th at 3pm with Amanda Ryan, from CLEAR, to discuss MS4 guidelines.
 - f) **Deer Hunt** – Mr. Zandri responded to the RCC's recent email. Mr. Zandri stated that the committee is forming a list of 2017-18 properties, suggested the RCC contact Mr. Marconi about concerns regarding the notification process, and promised to remove stands and feeders left behind.
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EXECUTIVE SESSION was entered at 9:20pm and ended at 9:40pm.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake