



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

September 6, 2017

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

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein
Tim Bishop	Carroll Brewster
Dave Cronin	Jack Kace
Dan Levine	

The following members were absent: Jim Coyle, Ben Oko, Alan Pilch, Kitsey Snow.
Dr. Kace chaired the meeting in Mr. Coyle's absence. Colleen Lake was present to take minutes.

Boy Scout Spencer Ogden and his father were also in attendance. Spencer was at the meeting to work on a scout badge by taking notes on a meeting of a town committee.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. OPEN SPACE

Mr. Levine commended the Daubar family, rangers for the East Ridge Trail, on their recent work maintaining the trail.

3) DEER HUNT 2017-18

Levy Park – The Commission discussed the possibility of a deer hunt in Levy Park. The deed of gift for the land states that the "Park and Recreation Area be known as the B.E. Levy Park and Recreation Area and Wild Life Refuge." The discussion focused on the language, "Wild Life Refuge", and particularly on whether hunting could be permitted on land so restricted.

UPON motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a vote of four to one (two abstentions) it was RESOLVED to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that in view of the restrictive language in the deed of gift, "Wild Life Refuge", no hunting be permitted in the area unless and until clear scientific evidence is presented that one species is causing demonstrated and significant damage to the ecosystem as a whole.

Mr. Levine will invite Pat Sesto to an upcoming meeting for her insight into the original intent of the hunt and the continuation of the hunt. Dr. Kace will contact Highstead about possibly studying one or two open space parcels to determine deer population and browsing patterns.

4) NEW AND CONTINUING TOPICS

- a) Great Swamp** – A representative from Harbor Watch will attend one of the RCC's October meetings.
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5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Sep. 19 – Mr. Brewster
Oct. 3 – Ms. Snow
Oct. 17 – Mr. Beckenstein

b) New & Continued Business

55 Wilton Road East – Mr. Bishop reported that the application to brush hog wetlands was approved by P&Z/IWB.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake