



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

October 2, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Tim Bishop	Carroll Brewster
Jim Coyle	Jack Kace	Ben Oko
Alan Pilch	Kitsey Snow	

The following members were absent: Eric Beckenstein, Dave Cronin and Dan Levine. Nikki Cantatore from Harbor Watch also attended.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The discussion was tabled until the October 16th meeting, at which time formal report will be provided.

3. NEW AND CONTINUING TOPICS

a) Great Swamp – Nikki Cantatore from Harbor Watch discussed the background and purpose of Harbor Watch. The group focuses on providing the people of Connecticut with the data, knowledge, and field expertise necessary to safeguard waterways, educate citizens about watershed issues, and train volunteers and student interns through hands-on research. The RCC is especially interested in working with them on the Norwalk River area, which includes monitoring of the Great Swamp. Mr. Pilch and Mr. Bishop will identify an additional access point into the swamp to be monitored.

b) REI/NRVT Event – Ms. Snow reported 35 volunteers showed up to help remove invasives, replant native species and raise money for the NRVT.

c) RCC Meeting Schedule – The proposed 2018 RCC meeting calendar was discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried with one abstention, it was agreed to adopt the 2018 RCC Calendar and send it to the Town Clerk for recording.

d) Preliminary meeting with Ed Faison – Dr. Kace and Mr. Coyle met last week with Ed Faison from Highstead at their Redding, CT location. Mr. Faison discussed his observations regarding the health of area forests. He recommended the RCC look at several NRI forest plots, recorded 8 years ago, to assess overall health in various Ridgefield locations. Dr. Kace, Ms. Snow, Dr. Oko and Mr. Cronin will select and review 5 parcels for the assessment.

e) Charter Revision Commission – The Town is looking for candidates to fill the 2018 commission. Candidates will be interviewed and appointed for up to 15 positions by mid-November.

f) Horse Ordinance – The draft ordinance was discussed at the September 27, 2017 BOS meeting and will be continued. The RCC recommends adding additional regulations to the proposed ordinance before it goes to a town vote.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Oct. 3 – Ms. Baker (160 High Ridge)

Oct. 17 – Mr. Beckenstein (Circle Drive B&B/28 West Branchville)

Nov. 8 – Mr. Cronin (WEDNESDAY meeting)

Nov. 21 – Dr. Kace

b) New & Continued Business

160 High Ridge Road – Mr. Pilch described the application for a subdivision accessway, which includes a stormwater management plan.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was agreed to submit Mr. Pilch's comments, with minor revisions, to P&Z/IWB. In addition, comments on 3 areas outside RCC purview, will be sent to Planning Director Baldelli.

28 West Branchville Road – The application for a three-lot subdivision bordering both Redding and Ridgefield was discussed. Mr. Pilch suggests finding alternatives to septic and catch basin locations and minimal land clearing on steep slopes to ensure soil stability.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was agreed to adopt Mr. Pilch's comments and submit to P&Z/IWB.

6. GOALS AND PROJECTS – Postponed to a later meeting - tbd.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Upon motion made carried, seconded and unanimously carried it was agreed to enter executive session at 9:20pm and exit at 9:40pm.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake