



APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
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October 16, 2017

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein	Tim Bishop
Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
Jack Kace	Dan Levine	Alan Pilch

The following members were absent: Ben Oko and Kitsey Snow.
Beth Peyser and Patricia Sesto also attended.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 2, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of October 2, 2017 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

2. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

795 North Salem – Still waiting for a pre-trial date.

George Washington Highway – Five Notice of Violation letters will be sent to homeowners with structures located in the easement area later this week after Ms. Peyser conducts a quick field study to see if any conditions have changed.

3. NEW AND CONTINUING TOPICS

a) Wetlands Citation Ordinance – Ms. Peyser explained the proposed wetlands citation ordinance that was based on several town ordinances, including the Open Space Citation Ordinance. The RCC supports Ms. Peyser's effort and suggested that it might be helpful to use the RCC's Citation Officers for an appeals board, as we experienced some difficulty last year in recruiting hearing officers.

b) Deer Impact/Forest Health Assessment – Ms. Sesto provided a brief history on the beginning of the Ridgefield deer hunt. The RCC asked for guidance on how to determine if the hunt is having a positive effect. She suggested visiting open spaces to evaluate the health of the forest and to require detailed and timely reports from the Deer Management Implementation Committee (DMIC). The RCC will request the DMIC to provide data 30 days after the end of hunting season that includes; parcel hunted, weapon used, and the date and sex of deer killed. In addition, 2017-18 parcel approval will be contingent on scheduling a public meeting and sending notification letters to abutting neighbors well in advance of the hunt start date.

c) NRI Forest Plots – Dr. Kace would like to collect data as soon as possible to compare to NRI plots from 2010. Dr. Kace, Mr. Pilch, Ms. Baker and Mr. Cronin will try to locate plots in Hemlock Hills for comparison on Saturday, October 21st at 8:30am.

d) Great Swamp – Mr. Pilch and Mr. Bishop will investigate additional inflow and outflow sites of Great Swamp to determine whether monitoring by Harbor Watch might be beneficial.

e) Horse Ordinance – The Town is still working on the ordinance.

f) Status of Inland Wetlands Boards – Ms. Baker will forward documents relating to 2014 Charter Revision.

4. OPEN SPACE

a) Deer Hunt Notification Letter – The 2017-18 letter did not include the public meeting date and was received by many homeowners within days of the start of the hunt. After receiving several complaints from abutting neighbors about the late letter and no scheduled meeting, the RCC will make parcel approval for future hunts contingent upon timely letter delivery and a scheduled public information meeting well in advance of the start of the hunt.

b) Tool Maintenance – Mr. Cronin will let commissioners know when he will be winterizing tools and equipment at the storage sheds. Mssrs. Beckenstein and Bishop volunteered to help.

c) Trail Firepit – A ranger is concerned about an illegal firepit in Hemlock Hills. Ms. Lake will forward the information to the fire and police departments.

5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

a) Meetings for Attendance

Oct. 17 – Mr. Beckenstein (Circle Drive/28 West Branchville/B&G Zoning)
Nov. 8 – Mr. Cronin (WEDNESDAY meeting)
Nov. 21 – Dr. Kace
Dec 5 – Mr. Levine
Dec 19 – Mr. Pilch

The three-lot zone change application at 41 Governor Street was discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to authorize Chairman Coyle to send a letter to P&Z/IWB supporting Ms. Peyser's position not to support the zone change.

6. GOALS AND PROJECTS – The updated project list was distributed and will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Upon motion made carried, seconded and unanimously carried it was agreed to enter executive session at 9:30pm and to exit at 9:35pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Lake