



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

**April 23, 2018**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:	Susan Baker	Eric Beckenstein	Tim Bishop
	Carroll Brewster	Jim Coyle	Dave Cronin
	Jack Kace	Dan Levine	Alan Pilch
	Kitsey Snow		
Absent:	Ben Oko		

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake took minutes.  
Michael Carpenter from the Land Conservancy was also in attendance.

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## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 2, 2018 are approved and ordered filed in the minute books of the Commission and the Town Hall.

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## 2. TREASURER'S REPORT – No report

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**3. MIKE CARPENTER – LAND CONSERVANCY** – Mr. Carpenter discussed a new parcel off North Salem Road being donated to the Land Conservancy. The 3.7+ acre property abuts RCC open space. Mr. Carpenter indicated he felt that the conservancy and the commission were key partners in protecting open space in Ridgefield.

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## 4. OPEN SPACE

### McKeon Farm

- Mr. Coyle, Ms. Snow, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Cronin planted four new apple trees.
- The liming of the apple orchard and hay field was discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to approve up to \$600 for the liming of the apple orchard. The hay field liming will be discussed in the fall.

- Ms. Snow reported that several gates have been removed and Ms. Freeman may need to replace one gate.
- Ms. Freeman informed the commission that the well pump needs to be replaced and there may be labor costs associated with the replacement. The pump is under warranty.

- Ms. Snow received an email from a town resident, Cece Berger, who would like to use a 40'x50' section of McKeon farm for a vegetable garden. The garden will provide real work opportunities for local autistic students. Ms. Snow and Mr. Cronin will investigate possible locations for the garden. Ms. Snow will invite Ms. Berger to an upcoming RCC meeting to present her proposal.

**Lakeside Drive Donation** – Several RCC members walked the site of the proposed donation on April 13<sup>th</sup>. There are several dead trees on the property that could become problematic for the town in the future.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to accept the Lakeside Drive property, cautioning that several dead trees could fall onto town roads in the future.

**Tree Removal/Tree Planting** – The commission discussed recent violation proceeds, which fund they went into, and how they should be used. It was agreed that violation proceeds would go into one of the unrestricted funds for violation remediation. In accordance with that policy, the commission will plant 5-10 trees on the Reddington property in the fall.

**Pollinator Pathway** – Ms. Snow reported the planting was a success, with 50 volunteers planting over 200 plants in five different locations. The RCC will send the previously approved \$500 donation to the NRWA for plant purchase.

**Great Swamp Dam** – Ms. Snow attended a recent meeting regarding the dam that is owned by NRCS and DEEP. A resource study will be conducted and the FECB expects to become involved at some point.

**NRVT** – The hike of the Ridgefield Ramble section is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

**Chainsaw Purchase** – Mr. Cronin proposed purchasing a larger battery operated chainsaw.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to spend up to \$400 on a new battery operated chainsaw.

**John Soluri Dumping** – Yard debris has been dumped in open space. Ms. Peyser will send a letter to nearby property owners with the rules and regulations about dumping in open space.

**2018-19 Deer Hunt** – Results of 2017-18 and proposed parcels for 2018-19 were distributed. Commissioners were asked to review the material and bring questions to our next meeting on May 9. The questions will be forwarded to the DMIC prior to their attending the RCC May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Coyle mentioned that Mr. Marconi would like to set up informational meetings prior to a town vote in September. Mr. Kace suggested Mr. Faison from Highstead as an unbiased resource.

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## 5. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

### a) Meetings for Attendance

Apr. 24 – Ms. Baker & Mr. Beckenstein – **canceled**  
 May 1 – Mr. Bishop & Mr. Cronin (Silver Spring Paddle Courts)  
 May 15 – Dr. Kace and Mr. Levine  
 May 22 – Mr. Pilch & Ms. Snow

### b) New and Continued Business

- The regulation amendment definitions for clear cutting and riparian buffers were discussed. A variety of shortcomings to those regulations were discussed.
- The 8-24 referrals for the Ledges lot and Lakeside Drive were approved by P&Z. The commission plans to walk the Ledges property when the next site walk is scheduled.

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**6. ANNUAL MEETING** – Ms. Lake reported that the Meffley Award plaque in town hall will cost \$175 to redo or \$500 for a new one. The commission decided to add a plaque hat for \$175, which will add enough room for five or more years.

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**7. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION** – The CRC voted to recommend separating P&Z and IWB. The next step in the process is for the BoS to vote on the topic. Mr. Coyle will meet with Mr. Marconi to discuss timing and what the next steps are. The CRC is likely to vote at their April 30th meeting as to whether the IWB positions should be elected or appointed. Ms. Baker will prepare a letter to the CRC on this issue.

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**8. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS - None**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake