



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

**June 18, 2018**

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent:         Susan Baker and Ben Oko

Mr. Coyle chaired the meeting. Colleen Lake took minutes.

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### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of June 4, 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 –

**Landscaping Invoices** – An invoice for \$917.27 from Rossini Landscaping for tree work in three open space areas and an invoice for \$1222.50 from Angel General Services for mowing and tree/fence removal at McKeon were discussed.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve both invoices and submit to finance for payment.

**Budget Update** – Mr. Coyle discussed current expenditures and estimates that we may be slightly over budget for FY2018 (possibly \$500). He will inform Mr. Redmond accordingly.

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### 3. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

**George Washington Highway** – The attorney for the homeowner at 25 Stonewall Lane agreed that a portion of the fence is in the easement area. Ms. Peyser will inform the homeowner that they will have 30 days to remove/relocate the fence from the easement area. The homeowner is required to pay the citation or appeal the citation by June 21, 2018.

**Skytop Road/Land Conservancy** – The RCC's request to abandon the unmaintained road is on the Board of Selectmen's agenda for June 20, 2018.

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#### 4. OPEN SPACE

**The McKeon Farm** – Mr. Coyle updated the commission on several farm issues. The lime will be delivered shortly and stored near the four fields to be limed. Haying of the three fields for this year is scheduled in the near term. A discussion followed of whether the fields should be hayed at all in the future. The general sentiment of the commission was to do no further haying and just mow the fields twice a year. Mr. Cronin disagreed with that position and requested that it be further discussed. Tremson finished the hydroax mowing of the upper meadow. Ms. Freeman has decided to buy her own tractor.

The McKeon Farm committee will meet on Tuesday, June 26 at 11am to discuss tractors. Mr. Beckenstein and Mr. Bishop will investigate available equipment prior to the meeting. The committee will also discuss the future of haying and installing a solar power system for the well and shed. Mr. Cronin and Dr. Kace will look into options and related costs.

**RCC Banner** – The banner has arrived and is available for use at upcoming events.

**Shadow Lake** – Ms. Baker, Dr. Kace, Mr. Pilch and Mr. Bishop visited the site last weekend to examine the dam. Mr. Bishop will draft a letter to Mr. Marconi and Mr. Fisher sharing RCC concerns with the dam.

**Road Salt Impacts** – Mr. Bishop will work with Mack Reid based on Reid's request for input on this topic.

**520 North Salem Road** – A dangerous black walnut tree on town open space abutting the property owner needs to be removed at a cost of \$3000.

UPON motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED to appropriate funds from the FY2019 expense budget to remove the tree.

**Old Sib Trees** – Mr. Cronin and two rangers have cleared a large portion of the trail connecting to Mountain Lakes. Mr. Cronin will evaluate what is needed to clear the other portion of the trail.

**Joe Natal** – Our summer worker from last year is available for project work. He is working on trail inspection and maintenance and will help out at the McKeon farm.

**Understory Study Update** – The next visit to find and examine seedling areas is scheduled for Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Meet in the Bogus Road parking area in Hemlock Hills.

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

a) Meetings for Attendance

June 19 – Mr. Bishop & Mr. Brewster

June 26 – Mr. Cronin & Dr. Kace

July 3 – Mr. Pilch

July 17 – Ms. Snow & Ms. Baker

July 24 – Mr. Beckenstein & Mr. Bishop

b) Report on P&Z/IWB Meetings

June 19 – Ms. Baker - The summary of the meeting was emailed earlier to commissioners.

c) New and Continued Business

173 High Ridge Road/128 Silver Spring Road Accessways – Mr. Pilch will draft comments for submission by June 22, 2018.

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**6. TREE ORDINANCE** – Mr. Pilch provided details on the new P&Z definition. Mr. Coyle and Dr. Kace will discuss the definition at the next meeting with Ms. Mucchetti and Mr. Fossi (Thursday June 21).

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**7. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION** – An amended presentation will be sent to the Board of Selectmen. A public hearing is set for July 18<sup>th</sup> and RCC members are asked to rally support from friends and neighbors for the hearing.

**8. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS** – None.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Lake