



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED**

April 21, 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Sean Connelly, Barbara Manners, Maureen Kozlark

Ms. Manners moved to approve the addition of John Dimitri's vendor permit application for The Coop to the agenda. Ms. Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

1) Public comment

No public comments.

2) Make Music Day 2021 – Jennifer Dilaura (Ridgefield Arts Council)

Ms. Dilaura thanked Mr. Marconi for presenting the awards for the upcoming State of the Town event in which the Ridgefield Arts Council honors volunteers from non-profit arts organizations.

Ms. Dilaura talked about the plans for the Arts Council's upcoming Make Music Day event which will be held on Monday June 21, 2021. There will be various types of music entertainment at Ballard Park, Keeler Tavern, the Aldridge Museum and the Lounsbury House. There will also be fun music themed activities along Main Street. Ms. Dilaura discussed the Arts Council's idea to promote Ridgefield's Summer of Song, The idea is that the Council will embrace the musical performances that are already planned throughout the summer, and promote them in a cohesive way. These include Concerts in the Park, events at the Ridgefield Playhouse and live music playing at restaurants, to name a few. The goal is to continue to market Ridgefield as a cultural destination with different themes for select periods of time.

The Arts Council has reached out local businesses encouraging them to participate, with the idea that the Council will then help promote those businesses. There was a discussion regarding the guidelines and restrictions in terms of COVID and how it will impact certain aspects of the Make Music Day.

No motions were made.

3) Vendor Permit Application – The Coop

John Dimitri applied for a vendor permit for his food truck, The Coop. Mr. Dimitri has been contacted by the High School several times to supply the staff with lunch between 10am and 2pm during staff appreciation days and is now being contacted for private events from Ridgefield residents. The Board reiterated the Town regulation that states food trucks cannot drive around town and park anywhere; they must be invited to a specific location. Another requirement is that all employees must go through a background check. Mr. Dimitri talked about the different foods he serves, the protocols he has in place to keep the food safe and fresh, and the COVID regulations he follows. There was a discussion about the way surrounding towns issue vendor permits and how it differs from Ridgefield.

Ms. Manners moved to approve the vendor permit application for The Coop food truck. Mr. Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

4) COVID Update

Mr. Marconi reviewed the current vaccination statistics in Connecticut as well as in Ridgefield. The Board discussed the details of the data from the most recent charts provided by Rick Lawrence. Mr. Marconi provided an overview of the positivity rates for Ridgefield in comparison to the State and Fairfield County and discussed the rising rates among the High School population.

The Board talked about the different activities that are being planned throughout town for the summer, including events at the playhouse, outdoor dining at the restaurants and in person church services with music. Mr. Marconi added that the 4th of July Fireworks and Memorial Day Parade have both been canceled.

There is a staff meeting scheduled for next week that will address the reopening of the Town buildings and what that will look like.

No motions were made.

5) PURA

Eversource has put in a claim stating they should not be fined and they will appeal any penalties or fines. PURA will be coming out with their final decision next week. If Eversource does appeal, PURA will be the ones fighting it, not the participating municipalities.

No motions were made.

6) Meeting Minutes

No Minutes were approved.

7) Selectman's Report

Mr. Marconi recapped the COVID reimbursements that were received through June last year and noted that there will be more reimbursements coming.

Mr. Marconi was happy to announce that the Branchville Cemetery has been signed off on and is now part of the Town of Ridgefield.

Mr. Marconi read the legislature that was passed last year that clarifies if a trustee is allowed to vote in a Town referendum. The information was passed on to the individual who initially asked the question which was discussed in a previous BOS meeting.

RACE is holding a series of meetings on Monday nights via Zoom with the Ridgefield Library. Mr. Marconi reviewed the topics for each of the meetings. He encouraged everyone to attend if able to.

Ellen Burns made a request to convert the Porta Potty area at Ballard Park into a concession area with bathrooms. The Board discussed who would clean the facility and if the public bathrooms at CVS would be a good alternative.

The Annual Town Budget meeting is being held on Saturday April 24th at 3pm. The Board discussed the possible number of attendees. Mr. Marconi will send out the budget packets to beforehand. The Annual Referendum will be on May 11th between 6am and 8pm at East Ridge Middle School.

Ms. Kozlark moved to adjourn the BOS meeting. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

The BOS meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.