

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOS MEETING – NOVEMBER 16, 2016

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:30 P.M.

UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, R. Hebert (via speaker phone), M. Kozlark, S. Zemo

Absent: B. Manners

AGENDA

1. Public Comment
2. World Pancreatic Cancer Day Proclamation
3. Ridgefield Housing Authority Interview: Vincent T. Liscio
4. Kids in Crisis Report
5. Economic Development Commission Discussion
6. Approval of 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar
7. DESPP Homeland Security Grant Program Blanket Resolution
8. Henny Penny Farm Lease: 8-24 Referral
9. Selectman's Report
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/2/16
11. Executive Session: Future Lease of Town-Owned Property (former Schlumberger, Richard Venue Building)

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.
2. World Pancreatic Cancer Day Proclamation

Nina Carranza, Danbury Rd., came forward to introduce Ruth Diamond, an 11-year survivor of pancreatic cancer and stated being a survivor like Ruth is very unusual. The pancreatic cancer survival rate has gone from 6% to 8%, which is a trend in the right direction, but still not where they hope to be. Their current goal is to hope to double the pancreatic cancer survival rate.

R. Marconi read the World Pancreatic Cancer Day Proclamation which declares November 17 as the 2016 day dedicated to pancreatic cancer. Nina suggested we should all wear purple on November 17th. Pancreatic cancer is the 3rd most common cause of death in the U.S. and the 7th most common cause of death in the world. R. Hebert suggested the proclamation should say World Pancreatic Cancer “Awareness” Day – add the word Awareness.

3. Ridgefield Housing Authority Interview: - Vincent J. Liscio
Vincent Liscio came forward to support his candidacy as a member of the Ridgefield Housing Authority. R. Marconi read the letter of application received from Mr. Liscio. R. Hebert stated he has met with Vinny 2-3 times recently and Vinny had done his due diligence regarding the Housing Authority before their first meeting. Vinny asked very good questions during their interview time and R. Hebert feels Mr. Liscio will be an asset to the Housing Authority.

M. Kozlark stated it is commendable that Mr. Liscio has spent so much time with R. Hebert and becoming acquainted with the nuts and bolts of the financial issues which continue to face the

Housing Authority. S. Zemo stated he has known Mr. Liscio since he moved to Ridgefield in 2015. After meeting with R. Hebert, Mr. Liscio attended two of the Housing Authority monthly meetings and toured the properties. He feels he can contribute to maintaining and advancing the Housing Authority Mission statement of “developing and managing public housing facilities for seniors in Ridgefield.”

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to appoint Vincent J. Liscio as a member of the Housing Authority for a five-year term. Motion passed 3-0-1. R. Hebert abstained from the vote as he is the Chairman of the Housing Authority.

R. Marconi stated it is important to have continuity with the Housing Authority and thus the BOS needs to reappoint Bob Hebert for an additional five-year term. R. Hebert serves as the Chairman of the Housing Authority.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to reappoint Robert Hebert for an additional five-year term on the Housing Authority. Motion passed 3-0-1. R. Hebert abstained from the vote as he is the Chairman of the Housing Authority.

4. Kids in Crisis Report –

Three women came forward to present the Kids in Crisis program at Ridgefield High School – Ashley Adamson, Counselor at the high school, Denise Qualey of Kids in Crisis, and Stacey Gross, RHS Principal. This is a Ridgefield High School TeenTalk mental health program that reaches students through individual counseling, group sessions, and presentations. They outlined the student population they have served and the various types of prevention provided.

Kids in Crisis has had two rounds of cuts in support from the State of CT, and they are now 100% eliminated from the State budget and are receiving zero State funding. Ashley stated they however continue to be very connected to the Ridgefield High School mental health budget. They work with very special kids and receive many referrals from the students themselves. R. Marconi thanked the ladies for their dedication to the students at Ridgefield High School.

5. Economic Development Commission Discussion

Arnold Light, Chairman of the EDC, came forward to participate in the discussion regarding issues facing the Economic Development Commission. R. Marconi stated this is the time for the mid-year approval after six months with the outside consultant. The needed funds will be transferred to the EDC and they can go out to find someone.

Mr. Light stated the EDC wants to follow through on the suggestions made by the SCRE Advisors’ report. He stated the Town had spent a lot of money on the development of this report regarding retail and parking, and we do not want to let it “lie there”.

S. Zemo asked for a description of the skill set of the individual they are looking for. He has some reservations about this process. We continue to have a lot of volunteer manpower that comes forward – could we go with a volunteer? Even if we have the dollars available, he has some reservations about hiring someone. He would like to have some discussion with the EDC about this process and how to achieve what they are looking for.

M. Kozlark stated she would like to see a job description – a formal outline.

R. Hebert stated he supports moving ahead, but how do we measure the results? We need more information. R. Marconi stated the next BOS meeting is December 7. He stated we should not put the study on the shelf. There are lots of concrete ideas that we can move ahead on.

6. Approval of 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar

The proposed 2017 calendar was presented for review. As in the past, budget review meetings will be held in early February – February 7, 8 and 9. It was suggested that the July 5 meeting (right after the July 4th weekend) be combined with the July 19 BOS meeting – only one meeting in July. It was suggested that the Fire Commission meeting on July 16 be moved to September 13 or else combined with the BOS meeting on August 23.

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Board of Selectmen & Fire Commission meeting calendar as modified. Motion passed 4-0.

Note – R. Hebert indicated that he had to hang up and could no longer participate in the BOS Meeting via speaker phone.

7. DESPP Homeland Security Grant Program Blanket Resolution

R. Marconi stated this is pretty much a “blanket agreement” which was sent to us for our review and approval.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as modified the DESPP Homeland Security Grant Program Blanket Resolution. Motion passed 3-0.

8. Henny Penny Farm Lease; 8-24 Referral

The following individuals were present for this discussion –

David Grogins, Town Counsel
Whitney Freeman, manager of the Henny Penny Farm and leasee
Jim Coyle, Chairman of the Conservation Commission
Susan Baker, member of the Conservation Commission
Dave Cronin, member of the Conservation Commission
John Katz, Old Ridgebury Rd., neighbor of the Henny Penny Farm

Jim Coyle, representing the Conservation Commission, stated the Commission has voted on this proposed lease and approved it. This is an opportunity for the Town to have a use for this property. M. Kozlark inquired as to the liability of the Town of Ridgefield if an animal gets out or gets hurt on the property. No, we are not liable. The rail fence is still down in various places. Whitney is checking on when that will be repaired.

The map of the property is to be attached as Exhibit A. This map is needed for the Public Hearing on December 7 and a Special Town Meeting on Monday, December 19. Per D. Grogins, an 8-24 is needed for a lease or to sell a piece of property.

Chris McQuilkin asked where the well would actually be located. R. Marconi pointed out the location on the map of the property.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the proposed lease as amended between the Town of Ridgefield and Whitney Freeman on the property consisting of approximately 15 acres, being a portion of the McKeon Farm, for a period of five years,

with the rent on the first year of the term of the lease being \$1.00 and set a Public Hearing for December 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm and a Special Town Meeting for December 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm, both to be held in the Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT. Motion passed 3-0.

9. Selectman's Report

- An application has come in regarding the purchase of #150 and #162 W. Mountain Rd. to convert the homes to an extended care facility. A special permit is necessary for this to happen. About 100 people have indicated their concern – they want to understand the process. R. Marconi is holding a meeting regarding this proposal at 8:00 a.m. this coming Saturday, November 19, Town Hall Large Conference Room. He will explain what is specific to an application like this. How does our Town work in such a situation? The public is frustrated as they want to ask questions. This meeting will provide residents an opportunity to talk and discuss this application.
- Conte Guzman has resigned from the Tree Committee.
- Todd Kolb has resigned from the Golf Committee. R. Marconi read his letter of resignation. Patrick Egan is an Alternate on the Golf Committee. R. Marconi will check with Ed Tyrrell, Golf Committee Chairman, to see what he wants to do – does Mr. Egan want to move up and become a regular member of the Golf Committee?
- Branchville Block Grant Program – This was a \$2 million grant and we did not get it. There are other grant opportunities to which we can apply. R. Marconi will ask Charlie Fisher to modify what we submitted on the previous grant application. If it is a grant for which we need to provide the 20% of the cost, we would have to put this 20% amount into a capital request.

Route 7 and Route 102 intersection sidewalk corrosion – a new crosswalk and lighting would all be part of the DOT plan. Redo of the bridge is a separate project. M. Kozlark stated she would like a clearer picture of what each grant is for. R. Marconi stated the grant is for a feasibility study. The study will be finished in 3-4 months. The study will show how this area is a mix of residential and commercial. We hope to get this project done with grant dollars.

We can develop a business plan for the Georgetown area. How do we connect to the Georgetown sewer plant? What about the Georgetown wire mill property? Redding has expressed interest in possibly taking the wire mill property back in payment for back taxes. We haven't done anything in Georgetown. We need to address it.

- Annual Christmas tree lighting – November 25th at 6:00 pm in front of Town Hall.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/2/16

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the November 2, 2016, BOS Meeting & Public Hearing. Motion passed 3-0.

11. Executive Session: Future Lease of Town-Owned Property (former Schlumberger, Richard Venus Building)

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:00 pm, inviting David Grogins, Town Counsel to participate. Motion passed 3-0.

The BOS returned to public at 10:12 pm. No vote was taken.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:12 pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Johnson