

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 AT 7:30PM

RECEIVED  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
NOV - 9 2022  
0 11:33 am  
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RIDGEFIELD CT

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting for residents will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall located in the large conference room located at 400 Main St. Ridgefield, CT 06877 to vote on items pertaining to the following:

1. For the allocation of \$665,539 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to the Ridgefield Arts and Culture Non-Profit Community.
2. For the allocation of \$306,900 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and contingent upon approval from the Board of Finance to the Ridgefield Housing Authority
3. For the allocation of \$45,000 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and contingent upon approval from the Board of Finance to the Economic Community and Development Commission for a Broadband Study
4. Scenic Road request pertaining to the below private roads:  
Madeline Drive, Lookout Drive, Rita Road, Rustic Drive, Water's Edge Way, Lake View Drive, Highview Rd

See the Town calendar for details pertaining to this Special Town Meeting. It will also be streamed live on our website, [www.ridgefieldct.org](http://www.ridgefieldct.org)

  
Rudy Marconi, First-Selectman



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD  
Office of the First Selectman

November 28, 2022

Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
Town Clerk

This letter is to affirm that the legal public notices for the Special Town Meeting held on November 16, 2022 appeared in *Danbury News-Times* on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

  
Amy Escribano  
First Selectman's Office

Received  
2022 NOV 28 AM 11:02  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
Ridgefield CT Town Clerk

At 7:30 pm, a Public Hearing to discuss a proposed amended ordinance Chapter §§ 136 (Sections 1-6) Buildings, Demolition of and a parking easement request for Pound Street began. The Public Hearing minutes can be found in the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes book.

First Selectman Rudy Marconi called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:45 pm in the large conference room of Town Hall. Mr. Marconi asked the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

R. Marconi stated that the first order of business was to appoint a Moderator. **Maureen Kozlark moved and another meeting attendee seconded the motion to appoint Ed Tyrrell Moderator for the Special Town Meeting. The "Aye" votes were unanimous and Ed Tyrrell was appointed Moderator.**

Moderator Ed Tyrrell called the meeting to order and requested a motion to appoint a secretary. **Rudy Marconi moved and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion to appoint Caitlin Bartolo, Deputy Town Clerk, secretary. The "Aye" votes were unanimous and Caitlin Bartolo was appointed secretary.**

Ed Tyrrell read the legal notice of the meeting that appears on Page 449 to consider:

1. For the allocation of \$665,539 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to the Ridgefield Arts and Culture Non-Profit Community.
2. For the allocation of \$306,900 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and contingent upon approval from the Board of Finance to the Ridgefield Housing Authority
3. For the allocation of \$45,000 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and contingent upon approval from the Board of Finance to the Economic Community and Development Commission for a Broadband Study
4. Scenic Road request pertaining to the below private roads: Madeline Drive, Lookout Drive, Rita Road, Rustic Drive, Water's Edge Way, Lakeview Drive, and Highview Road.

The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the first item. **Geoffrey Morris, 213 Ivy Hill Road, moved and Sean Connelly seconded the motion to approve the allocation of \$665,539 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to the Ridgefield Arts and Culture Non-Profit Community.**

The Moderator then entertained input from the meeting attendees. **First Selectman, Rudy Marconi**, gave a brief overview of this item. The amount of \$665,539 is 90% of what was requested from the Arts Council. The BOS and BOF agreed to this amount.

**Geoffrey Morris, 213 Ivy Hill Road**, member of the Economic and Community Development Commission, stated the ECDC has been working with the Arts Council and Board of Selectmen for a year and a half. Mr. Morris emphasized that he feels this should be viewed as an economic development issue. This money will support the arts community that will better them and bring more people into the community. The arts community is a huge driver of traffic and economics to Ridgefield.

**Glori Norwitt, 143 High Ridge Avenue**, Chair of the ECDC, spoke in support of everything Mr. Morris stated as well as explaining a little about the ARPA funds. The Town of Ridgefield received 7.4 million dollars in ARPA Funds. The reason these funds were given to communities was to assist businesses that were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. These funds will continue to drive economic development in Ridgefield. The ECDC is a strong supporter of this effort.

**The Moderator called for a vote to approve the motion. The “Aye” votes carried and the motion to approve the allocation of \$665,539 of ARPA funds as approved by the BOS and BOF to the Ridgefield Arts and Culture Non-Profit Community was approved.**

Moderator Ed Tyrrell asked for a motion to approve the second item. **Jan Hebert moved and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion to approve the allocation of \$306,900 of ARPA funds as approved by the BOS contingent upon approval from the BOF to the RHA.**

The Moderator then obtained input from the meeting attendees.

**Jan Hebert, 58 Prospect Street**, a member of the Ridgefield Housing Authority, explained the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic ate into the Housing Authority’s reserve funds. The funds requested would help restore those reserves.

**Vincent Liscio, 86 Governor Street**, Chairman of the Ridgefield Housing Authority, read a few lines from the Department of Treasury explaining how ARPA funds may be used. One of which is for affordable housing. He stated the commissioners of the Housing Authority have worked hard over the last 9 years to build reserves. The pandemic came like a “punch in the gut”. These funds would be important to the future of the Housing Authority to keep it in a quality situation for the residents and for the Town of Ridgefield.

**The Moderator called for a vote to approve the motion. The “Aye” votes carried, and the motion to approve the allocation of \$306,900 of ARPA funds as approved by the BOS and contingent upon approval from the BOF to the Ridgefield Housing Authority was approved.**

Moderator Ed Tyrrell then moved on to the third item. **Rudy Marconi** spoke to explain item #3 was originally an allocation of \$45,000 to complete a broadband study for the Town of Ridgefield. He stated The Western CT Council of Governments, of which Ridgefield is a member, has taken on this project and has grant funds available to complete the survey for the Town. Mr. Marconi explained that the Town feels confident they do not need to allocate the \$45,000 of ARPA funding for this purpose now that WestCOG has the funds available. **Glori Norwitt of the ECDC** explained the ECDC has been working on this issue since March. She stated the Town needs fiber and better internet to every single address. The Broadband study is the first step. An engineering study is the second step. The federal government has a great amount of money that they are giving out to Towns for this purpose, and we have learned that WestCOG can do the broadband study for the Town at their cost.

**Rudy Marconi** explained the goal is to provide open access. Fiber would allow customers to choose who they want to do business with. It would also help ease the costs for internet service to each household. The Town wants to be at the head of the line when the money comes from the federal government. This survey is the first step. WestCOG has the money available.

**Moderator, Ed Tyrrell asked for a motion to remove item #3 from tonight’s agenda. Sean Connelly moved, and Glori Norwitt seconded. The “Aye” votes carried, and the motion to remove the allocation of \$45,000 of ARPA funds as approved by the Board of Selectmen and contingent upon approval from the Board of Finance to the Economic Community and Development Commission for a Broadband Study from the Town Meeting Agenda was approved.**

The Moderator then asked for a motion to approve the fourth and final item. **A meeting attendee moved, and another attendee seconded the motion of the Scenic Road request pertaining to the below private roads: Madeline Drive, Lookout Drive, Rita Road, Rustic Drive, Water’s Edge Way, Lakeview Drive, and Highview Road.**

The Moderator then entertained input from the attendees. **Rudy Marconi** gave a brief background of the private roads on the agenda. Many roads in the north end of Town surrounding the Eight Lakes were created years ago by a private owner. Many of these roads in some areas are only eight to ten feet wide. The Town does plow and sand these private roads and paves parts of these roads when asphalt is available but private roads are not at the top of the list. We are attempting to accept these roads as scenic roads and as such the Town cannot change the character of the road, but it will now elevate these roads as Town roads. Rustic Road is missing from the list because the Town, on Rustic Road, owns approximately half of the frontage on the road that is open space. Rustic Road will be back up on the list which will proceed separately to a public hearing and then a Town meeting. Mr. Marconi stated the Town just needs to be sure that they have the necessary frontage which they currently don’t have, but if the Town says ok, they can move forward.

**Dawn Hettrick, 74 Lakeview Drive**, clarified that Lakeview Drive is one word and not two. She also expressed a thank you to the Rainbow Lake Association for setting the precedent for changing private roads to scenic roads allowing residents a pathway forward to present their case to the Town.

**Manuel Silver, 504 Bennetts Farm Road**, stated he lives nearby and walks the roads that are on the agenda. He feels they are unsafe even to walk. He stated it is very difficult for the school children to walk these roads to their bus stop. He said, it is a matter of the quality of life for these residents. He asked support for everyone to vote for these roads becoming scenic roads.

**Rudy Marconi** clarified that the Town will not be increasing width of the road or putting in drainage or sidewalks. Those things would be at the cost of the residents. This motion is strictly to get these roads on the Town paving list so the Town can maintain the roads better.

**The Moderator then called for a vote to approve the motion. The “Aye” votes carried, and the motion to approve the Scenic Road designation for Madeline Drive, Lookout Drive, Rita Road, Rustic Drive, Water’s Edge Way, Lakeview Drive, & Highview Road was approved.**

**Maureen Kozlark moved, and Sean Connelly seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlin Bartolo, Deputy Town Clerk