


NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2021 AT 7:30PM

RECEIVED
@ 3:11 PM
NOV 10 2021
Wendy Gannon Lionetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting for residents will be held on Wednesday December 8, 2021 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Large Conference room located at 400 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877 to vote on the acceptance of a donation of 7.41 acres of land located on Route 7 for open space. See the Town calendar for details of this Special Town Meeting. It will also be streamed live on our website at www.ridgefieldct.org and aired on Comcast Channel 24.


Rudy Marconi, First Selectman



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectman

December 13, 2021

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Town Clerk

This letter is to affirm that the legal public notices for the Special Town Meeting held on Wednesday December 8, 2021 appeared in *Ridgefield Press* on Thursday December 1st, 2021.


Amy Escribano
First Selectman's Office

Special Town Meeting December 8, 2021

The First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, called the meeting to order at 7:30 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. **Selectman Bob Hebert moved and Selectperson Maureen Kozlark 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. **John Katz, Ridgebury Road, moved and Bill Wyman, Rockwell Road, seconded the motion to appoint Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk, secretary. The "Aye" votes were unanimous and Wendy Gannon Lionetti was appointed secretary.**

Moderator Tyrrell read the legal notice of the meeting that appears on page 403, to consider acceptance of a donation of 7.41 acres of land located on Route 7 for open space.

The Moderator then asked for a motion to approve. **John Katz moved and Bill Wyman seconded the motion to approve the acceptance of a donation of 7.41 acres of land located on Route 7 for open space.**

The floor was then opened for discussion.

- R. Marconi reminded attendees that the reason the matter was postponed from the original STM date is because he was asked to contact the owners to determine whether they would approve of 2 acres being spun off for retail. Their

response was that recreational use of the open space (such as a ballfield) would be acceptable, but no building or retail use would be allowed. The list of acceptable uses will be incorporated into the deed.

- B. Hebert asked whether a picnic area would be acceptable? R. Marconi responded yes, as long as the Town would not be responsible for maintaining it—it would be the responsibility of the ice cream shop that abuts the property. It would be a welcome use of the space as the ice cream shop is very close to the road and their picnic table is in front of the building. The state will not install guard rails in front of the shop and therefore it would be safer to relocate the picnic table to a green space off the road.

- Russ Porter, 14 Pilgrim Hill, asked for how long would the open space restriction remain on the property? R. Marconi responded in perpetuity. R. Porter asked if we don't accept it, is there any chance we could purchase it in the future?

- Jim Coyle, Conservation Commission Chairman, stated that he, too, spoke with the owner and they are not interested in splitting the property. The Conservation Commission wants the property; the entire 7.41 acres has been on the market for one year.

- B. Hebert asked whether the property will be deed restricted as open space? Jim Coyle responded yes—it can never be developed.

- Linda Lavelle, Aspen Mill Road, stated she does not see the advantage for the Town in acquiring the property. She would like to see the owner keep it on the market and sell it. The Town needs more businesses for tax revenue.

- John Katz, Ridgebury Road, stated he is flummoxed by anyone being against an open space acquisition. Route 7 is the perfect place for open space.

Moderator Tyrrell then called for a vote of the motion on the floor. **The “Aye” votes carried, and the motion to approve the acceptance of a donation of 7.41 acres of land located on Route 7 for open space was approved.**

John Katz moved and Bill Wyman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk