The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add Wittman Preserve purchase and installation of fencing for the parking area as item 9 and the owners of 45 Saint Johns Rd discussion as item 2.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), (Keller abstained) and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2024 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall.

2. 45 SAINT JOHNS RD
The CEO gave a brief summary of the NOV and the communications that followed. The home owners stated their concerns and would like RCC members to identify themselves if on the OS checking in on the NOV issue going forward. The RCC informed the home owners that the land adjacent to theirs is public open space and is accessible by anyone during daylight hours. The home owners are very corporative and 100% complete with the NOV. The RCC will address personal identification at our next meeting.

3. SUMMER TREKKING PROGRAM
Ms. Hogan reported that Parks & Rec, Woodcock Nature Center and Ridgefield Library are all excited and on board for the program. June 1st is National Trails Day, RCC would like to coordinate the release of the new walk book for this event. Ms. Hogan is asking RCC for 12 total trail recommendations to be submitted by this Thursday in order to take advantage of all organizations marketing efforts.

4. FORESTRY STUDIES
Mr. Markert provided some updates on the Forestry study. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Service Forester Dave Beers received our list of six open space sites for field visits and he agreed to visit them as he has time available, probably beginning in April. Mr. Markert identified some grant applications available to the RCC however Mr. Keller will speak to Mr. Coyle and have a conversation with the BOS to understand their appetite for any type of matching grant regarding Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain. Once this has been established RCC can move forward on scope and grant applications.

5. WEBSITE UPDATE
Ms. Hogan had some good news regarding the new RCC website, when you go to the Town website it now links to the new website. The RCC will also be able to get access to all previous minutes. There have been some unintended consequences regarding the new email addresses required by the town, if a member shifts titles or moves their emails do not travel with them. Ms. Hogan will log a formal complaint with the BOS.

6. WALK BOOK UPDATE
Mr. Keller reported the walk book maps are almost 100% complete. Still looking for more photos of interesting or distinct features of each property. Also, Mr. Keller is requesting trail suggestions for the following categories; 5 most difficult, 5 family friendly and 5 most interesting views and vantage points by our next meeting.

7. AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE PROGRAM
The American Chestnut Foundation has provided the liability insurance document now it is up to the RCC to review the contract line by line with the ACF and decide if this is actually something RCC will get involved in. Mr. Coyle will forward the lease agreement to the newly formed committee Mr. Kace, Mr. Markert, and Mr. Nichols for review. Mr. Nichols will set up Zoom meeting with newly formed committee as well as the newly appointed Chair of the Tree committee and the ACF and report back.

8. ANNUAL MEETING
It was decided to create a plaque for the Edith Meffley award receipts (Mr. Nichols will begin working on these) and a photo with a personalized mat for Jill Kelly to be recognized as the very first Ranger. The event will be more a night of appreciation for friends of Ridgefield Open Space than a meeting. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks will be served along with a presentation from Dina Brewster on regenerative farming. Invites have been emailed. Ms. Hogan and Mr. Sharp are working on a slideshow to be shown as a backdrop at the event.

9. WITTMAN PRESERVE
Mr. Sharp gave the estimate to purchase and install the fencing around the parking area at the newly established Wittman Preserve OS. Mr. Sharp also mentioned that scouts will install a kiosk, create a seating area and develop the trail to Round Pond this year.
UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was RESOLVED to spend up to $3690 to purchase and install fencing along the newly constructed parking area.

10. NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Welby will by conducting two American Woodcock walks – March 19th and March 21st at 6:30pm in the parking lot at the end of Lauzen Lane.

11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

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<td>March 19</td>
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<td>March 28 – Barbieri</td>
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<td>Hogan</td>
<td>April 11 – Keller</td>
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12. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

No remarks.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Kace), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:09P.M.