

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

Meeting March 4, 2024 at 7PM



Present: Roberta Barbieri James Coyle Jana Hogan Jack Kace
 Jean Linville Jim Liptack Anthony Markert Matt Sharp
 Allan Welby

Absent: Erik Keller, Pete Nichols
Present: Alex Glenn

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to add Purple Martin colony expansion and new town email system to the agenda prior to Summer Trekking Program.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Kace), seconded (Markert), (Sharp & Linville abstained) and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2024 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall.

2. PINE MOUNTAIN KIOSK – Alex Glenn

Alex Glenn presented his final presentation at Pine Mountain. The new kiosk has a metal roof and looks fantastic.

3. PURPLE MARTIN COLONY EXPANSION

Mr. Welby reported on the Purple Martin Colony at McKeon. The Purple Martin colony expanded to over 100 birds in 2023. There are 36 gourd nests on the current structure, 21 of which were occupied with nests in 2023. 84 baby Martins were produced from those nests. As part of an ongoing research project the Conservation Commission banded 71 of those babies (up from 22 banded in 2022). If only 25% of those babies return this year, along with the older adults, there is going to be a shortage of nesting gourds.

UPON motion duly made (Welby), seconded (Markert), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** up to expand the number of gourds by 18.

4. TOWN EMAIL SYSTEM

Mr. Coyle updated the RCC on the new town email requirements. Every commissioner will be required to have a town email address. This will take place in the coming month.

5. SUMMER TREKKING PROGRAM

Ms. Hogan reported that Parks & Rec, Woodcock Nature Center and Ridgefield Library are all excited and on board for the program.

6. FORESTRY STUDIES

Mr. Markert provided some updates on the Forestry study. RCC agreed all sites look good on the list. Mr. Markert will gather some information on a possible grant application and start planning out the scope of work with the maintenance committee.

7. AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE PROGRAM

The American Chestnut Foundation has provided two documents for review; however, we are still waiting on the liability insurance.

8. WEBSITE UPATE

Ms. Hogan will be meeting with IT tomorrow and should be ready to transfer the town page over to the new site. Holding off on the google maps until the walk book is completed, however will need some quality control on where the pins are located on the map to match exact entrance to open space.

9. WALK BOOK UPDATE

Mr. Coly e reported the walk book maps are almost 100% complete. However, would like more photos of interesting features of each property if we have them.

10. ANNUAL MEETING

It was decided to create a plaque for the Edith Meffley award receipts 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 will be emailed out Thursday.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Barbieri had a great turn out for the macro invertebrates talk at the library.

Mr. Welby mentioned it is Woodcock season and if we could partner with the Woodcock Nature Center on our events coming up for more publicity.

12. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

March 5 – Sharp
March 19 - Nichols

IWB

March 14 – Welby
March 28 – Barbieri

13. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

No remarks.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:42P.M.