

APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

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

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Meeting February 21, 2024 at 7PM



**Present:** Roberta Barbieri      Jana Hogan      Jack Kace      Erik Keller  
                 Jim Liptack                    Anthony Markert      Pete Nichols      Allan Welby

Absent: James Coyle, Jean Linville, Matt Sharp  
Present: CEO Caleb Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barrett

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**UPON** motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add 40 Thunder Hill violation to the agenda prior to Whitlock Lane. Vote: 8:0

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**UPON** motion duly made (Markert), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of February 05, 2024 be approved and ordered filed in Town Hall. Vote: 8:0

**2. 40 THUNDER HILL (Violation)**

The CEO presented a short summary of the Notice of Violation on 40 Thunder Hill. The homeowners were asked to explain their side. The home owners admitted that they knew the Bocce court and part of the driveway encroached on the open space. The home owners agreed to obtain a survey for at least the side of their property that abutted OS. Once that is completed RCC will inspect the property to determine next steps.

**3. WHITLOCK LANE (Potential Violation)**

The item was discussed and more information is required to determine the potential nature of the violation.

**4. FORESTRY STUDIES**

Mr. Markert provided a handout of outstanding action items from previous Dave Beers reports. We will need to figure out how to begin addressing them. Mr. Markert also handed out a draft letter to Mr. Beers on future reports and requested comments from Commissioners.

**5. AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE PROGRAM**

The American Chestnut Foundation will be getting liability insurance and would like to move forward with our project. The RCC will review the agreements they provided using track changes in word.

**6. SUMMER TREKKING PROGRAM**

Ms. Hogan proposed exploring public walks through open space with different themes and various partner organizations. RCC agreed that it was a good idea and should be pursued.

**7. GOOGLE OPEN SPACE MAP**

Ms. Hogan has been working on a google map that links all the RCC's open spaces with a link. The map works great, but RCC will wait to release it until the Walk Book information is updated and complete before finalizing.

**8. TRAIL BLAZING KITS AND PAINT PURCHASE REQUEST**

**UPON** motion duly made (Roberta), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED up to \$200 to buy paint and supplies. Vote: 8:0

**9. WEBSITE UPDATE**

Ms. Hogan reported that an arrangement was made with PayPal that will significantly reduce the fees for processing contributions to the OS fund.

**10. WALK BOOK UPDATE**

Mr. Liptack reported that the walk book revision is a work in progress and updated the status.

**11. ANNUAL MEETING**

Dina Brewster will be asked to be the speaker with Wolf Conservation as backup for the RCC's annual meeting. The RCC will award the Edith Meffley award to two candidates this year to John Katz and Dave Cronin at the annual meeting. To be discussed at the next meeting, a possible recognition for Jill Kelly.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nichols has cleared Ledges Park of the perk test pipes and will continue periodically removing the tires and barrels.

**13. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE**

**P&Z**

February 27 – Linville  
March 5 - Nichols

**IWB**

February 22 – Markert  
March 14 – Welby

Mr. Markert will cover February 27 for Ms. Linville.

**14. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

No remarks.

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**ADJOURNMENT UPON** motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Nichols), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:45P.M. Vote: 8:0.