



APPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting December 15, 2025 at 7PM

Present: Jim Coyle
Jean Linville
Allan Welby

Jana Hogan
Jim Liptack
Anthony Markert

Jack Kace
Pete Nichols

Erik Keller
Matt Sharp

Absent: Roberta Barbieri

1. Approval of Minutes

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) and carried it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2025 be approved and filed in Town Hall. Mr. Liptack abstained.

2. Final Presentation Eagle Project- John Soluri Bog Bridge (Benjamin Macaraeg)

Mr. Macaraeg presented his final project report on the replacement of the bog bridges at the John Soluri Preserve. The project took around 60 hours to complete and looks fantastic. The RCC will post a video of a walk on the bridge on its website.

3. Proposed Eagle Project- Bog Bridges and Trenches (Rishi Palicha)

Mr. Palicha presented his proposal to replace the bog bridges and install water bars along the Ledges trail.

Upon motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols) and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the proposal with the adjustments of adding grip tape plus extra supports for a budget of up to \$750. The project is expected to take place in March.

4. Commission Elections

Upon motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols) and carried, it was RESOLVED to nominate Erik Keller as the Chairman of the RCC and to nominate Mr. Coyle as Vice Chairman/Treasurer. The commission then voted unanimously for the two nominees.

5. Annual Appeal and Meeting

Mr. Keller and Ms. Hogan are working to secure a venue for the annual meeting. Once the RCC has a date, they will search for a keynote speaker.

6. Expense and Capital Budgets

Mr. Coyle submitted the annual budget request for \$63,418 for FY26-27. He also modified the previously submitted capital budget request of approximately \$7,000 for a new ride-on mower with roll-over protection regarding its useful life.

7. Newsletter

The Newsletter will be scheduled to send out this Friday.

8. Executive Session (Enforcement Actions)

Upon motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Sharp) and carried, it was **RESOLVED** to go into Executive Session. Returned to public session at 8:01pm.

9. New Business

Mr. Keller and Mr. Sharp plan to cut back the Japanese Angelica at Wittman Preserve this weekend. The Wittman Stewards are very much engaged and helping out at the property. There is initial interest from residents around the Pound Street property to also become stewards.

Mr. Welby let the RCC know the deadline to apply to the Thrift Shop grant is January 30th. Mr. Coyle requested commissioners to submit items to be included in the proposal.

Mr. Nichols is working with the neighbor about the visibility of the RCC pickup truck and water-collection system at McKeon. The pickup has been moved and the water system has been shielded from view with a lattice structure.

Mr. Markert will be meeting with Mr. Beers of CT DEEP at Canterbury Lane at 10am on December 18.

10. Meetings for Attendance

P&Z

No December meetings

IWB

No December meetings

11. Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Coyle thanked the RCC members for their support over the years and he will provide continued support to the commission in the Vice Chairman role. He congratulated Mr. Keller on his election as Chairman.

The next commission meeting will occur on January 12, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made, and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 8:09 pm.