



MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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

Meeting September 8, 2025 at 7PM

Present: Roberta Barbieri James Coyle Jack Kace Erik Keller
 Jean Linville Jim Liptack Anthony Markert Pete Nichols
 Matt Sharp Allan Welby

Absent: Jana Hogan

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Nichols) and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2025 be approved and filed in Town Hall. Kace and Sharp abstained.

2. John Soluri Bog Bridges (Scout Ben Macareag)

Mr. Macareag presented his proposed project to rebuild the bog bridges at the John Soluri preserve. The RCC noted some of this project may actually be on state-owned property, to which Mr. Sharp will check with the state representative. **UPON** motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Nichols) and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the project pending state approval and budget of up to \$3,100.

3. Deer Committee Proposed Hunt Properties 2025-2028

Mr. Zandri presented his proposed modifications to the deer hunt list; 21 properties are listed, of which have all been hunted before with the exception of Casey Lane and Levy Park. RCC requested the removal of Levy Park due to deed restrictions and Casey Lane was added. One property is the Golf Course, which is not RCC responsibility. **UPON** motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Sharp) and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the deer hunt management plan for 2025-2028 timeframe with stated exceptions. Mr. Coyle will prepare a letter to the Board of Selectpersons as they have final approval of the hunt.

4. McKeon Farm Management Plan

Mr. Coyle brought up the McKeon management plan once more to the RCC as it seems like there has not been a clear resolution for the space. The RCC will have a McKeon only meeting on October 20th for the public to present any and all ideas or proposals.

5. Wittman Preserve

Mr. Keller and Mr. Sharp met with the neighbors of the Wittman Preserve regarding the maintenance and removal of the phragmites; the neighbors and the RCC have created a Wittman stewardship program where the neighbors will remove the invasives and help to maintain the property. The RCC will explore this option in relation to other Open Space properties as well.

Mr. Sharp has a quote to remove the invasives inside the rock wall for around \$1,900. **UPON** motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Keller) and carried, it was RESOLVED to approve the removal but to inquire where the invasives will be dumped.

There is a dead tree in the parking lot at Wittman; RCC will reach out to the Tree Warden for removal.

6. News12 Interview McKeon

Mr. Nichols was approached by News12 to update the public on the status of McKeon and search for new tenants. RCC decided to not pursue the interview and proceed with local outreach and concentrate on the meeting October 20th.

7. Forest Management Studies

Dr. Markert mentioned RCC is close to signing a contract with a forester for the forest management plan for Hemlock Hills/Pine Mountain/Lake Windwing open space area. Dr. Markert and Mr. Beers of CT DEEP will resume their walks over the next few weeks to include Ivy Hill, John Soluri Preserve, Keeler Court, and Keeler Drive.

8. New Business

Ms. Barbieri is filling in for Ms. Hogan for the talk at the Library Wednesday evening and will offer the free invasive audit program to the participants.

Mr. Keller mentioned the Fall newsletter is in the works and will be emailed out shortly and he will be planting 12 apple trees on September 24th if anyone would like to help out.

Mr. Nichols replaced maps in the Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain kiosks and found graffiti on one of them to remove. He is also installing Prospect Ridge signs.

Mr. Sharp mentioned there are two more scout presentations that will be on the upcoming agendas.

9. Executive Session (Enforcement Actions)

UPON motion duly made (Coyle), seconded (Keller), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the commission go into executive session.

Returned to public session at 8:38pm.

10. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

P&Z

September 16 – Barbieri

October 7 – Keller

IWB

September 11 – Keller

September 25 – Kace

11. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle stated that the Rockwell Preserve will now have to go through probate before it is released and there is a new hiking program at Founders Hall called Happy Trails (to which the RCC will donate a Walk Book).

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made, and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:41 PM.