



## MINUTES

### Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

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**Meeting June 23, 2025 at 7PM**

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

Absent: Roberta Barbieri, Jana Hogan

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**UPON** motion duly made (Nichols), seconded (Keller) and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2025 be approved and filed in Town Hall. Coyle abstained.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES)

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

Returned to public session at 7:04pm.

### 3. NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is out for review and will go out tomorrow.

### 4. TAYLORS POND

RCC has expressed several concerns, including potential impacts on downstream homes, existing wildlife, the need for Inland Wetlands review, the affected land owners, and effects on the Taylors Pond designated open space. The RCC feels as though they are being requested to grant permission to remove the dam without sufficient information to make an informed decision. Mr. Keller wrote a comment letter and Mr. Coyle will send out tomorrow.

### 5. BRANCHVILLE PUBLIC FORUM

The TOR will be hosting a public forum tomorrow evening via Zoom to discuss the Branchville Transit Oriented Development Plan. Mr. Keller and Mr. Coyle will put together a letter addressing open space and trail possibilities.

### 6. MCKEON MAINTENANCE

Mr. Coyle will touch base with Henny Penny Farm and confirm they have moved from the farm earlier than planned. Mr. Sharp will reach out to Carlos and see if we can schedule him to hay the fields for the short-term management of the property. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller will walk the fields and assess the work needed to clear the rock walls. Mr. Welby is continuing the process to assess options for the fields.

### 7. LIBRARY TALKS

There are four remaining library talks scheduled for this year. Drs. Markert and Linville will write up summaries for their talks and submit to Mr. Keller. The RCC agrees to keep this program and partnership with the library going and will plan for next years topics and discussions.

**8. GOODWILL PUMPING STATION**

The WPCA is relocating the Quail Ridge Pump Station, with new sewer lines extending across multiple properties. The RCC believes no conservation or historic easements are present but noted existing trails in the area. However, further analysis is necessary to more accurately assess the sewer alignment impacts. The Commission expressed interest in connecting trail segments, particularly between Ligi's Way and the Rail trail. The WPCA plans to install a gravel path along parts of the sewer route. The Commission supports continued coordination with the WPCA to explore trail opportunities.

**9. FOREST MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

Dr. Markert mentioned that the state has sent the grant to the First Selectmen, Dr. Markert will arrange to have the document distributed to the RCC for review. The forester is in preparation for his contract and work to begin, and has a couple of items outstanding. He will work with the Town's GIS and the Open Space Inventory on the RCC website.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nichols reported that 15 of the 20 American Chestnut seeds have germinated. Also mentioned the beaver deceiver is doing a great job so far at Turtle Pond.

Mr. Welby mentioned the Farmingville Community Garden has issued a warning that the well should not be used for watering due to high levels of bacteria. Richardson Park graffiti is still present; parents were supposed to paint over graffiti but Mr. Welby noticed it was still there as well as a bunch of broken glass.

Mr. Sharp mentioned a number of Eagle Scout projects in the pipeline. Mr. Keller mentioned Ms. Hogan will purchase a plastic overlay to help with the QR codes at Pine Mountain for the Eagle Scout Project.

**11. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE**

**P&Z**

July 1 – Keller

July 15 – Linville

**IWB**

June 26 – Kace

July 10 – Liptack

Mr. Markert will take Mr. Keller's July 1<sup>st</sup> session.

**12. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Coyle reviewed proposed development at 145 High Ridge Rd. regarding environmental contamination at the former dry cleaner site now proposed for development. The developer has submitted an application for 40 units on the 1.5-acre parcel. Inland Wetlands is hiring a peer review consultant, funded by the developer. RCC will remain involved and continue to monitor the situation.

The RCC will be required to keep different logs for the Thrift Shop and DEEP grants.

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**ADJOURNMENT UPON** motion duly made, and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:20 PM.