UNAPPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room
66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, CT 06877
(203) 431-2713 ● conservation@ridgefieldct.gov

Meeting November 2, 2026 at 7PM

Present:	Pete Nichols	Allan Welby	Tommy McCarthy
	Roberta Barbieri	Anthony Markert	Matt Sharp
	Jim Coyle	Erik Keller	Jana Hogan
	Jack Kace	Jim Liptack	

Absent: none
In attendance: Christian St-Pierre and family

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Chairman Keller. Commissioner Sharp **MOTIONED** to add item 3a. "Invasive plant grant" to the agenda; Commissioner Barbieri **SECONDED** and all **APPROVED**.

1. Approval of Minutes

UPON motion duly made (Sharp), seconded (Barbieri) and carried it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2026 be approved and filed in Town Hall. Commissioners Kace and Hogan abstained.

2. Lanternfly egg removal review

Ridgefield High School student Christian St-Pierre gave a review of the spotted lanternfly egg mass removal workday, which took place on October 18 at McKeon Farm. There were 10 volunteers in attendance, including young children and students from other towns. They were able to identify and destroy more than 20 egg masses. He feels the event went well, and would like to host it again in the future. Commissioners congratulated him on his success and thanked him for his efforts.

3. Frogwatch report

Frogwatch USA is a citizen scientist program that teaches volunteers to identify and report on amphibian calls. Commissioner McCarthy shared an end-of-season review on the reports received by Woodcock Nature Center. 142 observations were made across 18 monitored sites in and around Ridgefield. Data was collected from March through August. 10 amphibian species were observed, with spring peepers being the most common. Mr. McCarthy reports that the Frogwatch program is going well and growing each year.

3a. Invasive plant grant

Ms. Barbieri informed the Commission that it has been awarded a DEEP grant for invasive plant removal at Florida Refuge. The RCC has until November 13 to officially accept, which requires the submission of several documents including a Town Resolution. The DEEP made some minor alterations to the budget the RCC submitted in its application; they have asked the RCC to remove the proposed signage from its budget. They have suggested including contingency funding, approximately 10%. They have also

requested that a licensed state forester be contracted to oversee the project; Commissioner Markert suggests Eric Hansen.

The RCC will be required to report its progress to the DEEP. The RCC will pay contractors directly, and then be reimbursed quarterly by the DEEP. Ms. Barbieri anticipates that the bulk of the expenses will fall between February and April 2027.

4. Executive session—Violation enforcements/Taylors Pond

At 7:25 PM, Commissioner Sharp MOTIONED to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing enforcement action and potential litigation. This was SECONDED by Commissioner Nichols. The Commission returned to public session at 7:48 PM.

5. New business

Dr. Markert expects to receive a draft of the completed forestry report on Hemlock Hills/Pine Mountain/Lake Windwing in the next two weeks. He has also organized another sitewalk with forester Dave Beers on November 17 at 10 AM. They will walk Barrack Hill Refuge, Wittman Preserve, Lynch Brook Lane, and Round Pond Preserve.

Mr. Nichols noted that there are two large Trees-of-heaven at the Ledges property. He has girdled them and applied herbicide. Once the trees have died, they will be felled. He also shared that the swinging bench he recently installed at McKeon Farm has become a subject of contention in that neighborhood. After discussion, commissioners decided that the bench should be removed.

6. Meetings for Attendance

P&Z	IWB
November 10—Nichols	November 12—Liptack
December 8—Welby	December 10—Sharp

7. Chairman's Remarks

Annual Appeal letters will be sent out in the next week.

At McKeon Farm, the sign that was knocked down has been fixed. Mr. Keller will broadcast seeds for the pollinator garden in the next week.

One of the RCC's trails at Remington Woods is on private property. This property has submitted an application for subdivision, and the trail will need to be rerouted.

A resident on North Salem Road has expressed an interest in donating land.

ADJOURNMENT UPON motion duly made (Sharp), and seconded (Nichols), it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 8:15 PM.