



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED
April 26, 2023 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Barbara Manners, Bob Hebert, Maureen Kozlark, Sean Connelly (zoom)

1. Public Comment

Pam Stoddart, 28 Olmstead Lane, Executive Director of the Guild of Artists commented that she is interested in hearing about the proposed Fathers Club clubhouse and her concerns about parking which is already an issue for the businesses in the area.

2. Commission on Aging

a. Maureen J Culhane – reappointment

Maureen Culhane talked about the great things that have been going on with the Commission on Aging. There were discussions about Ridgefield Crossings, Ridgefield Station, and how to get more public transportation options for seniors.

Maureen Kozlark moved to reappoint Maureen Culhane for a 3-year term to the Commission on Aging. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

b. Steven J Conner – appointment

Steve Conner told the Board about himself and the reasons he would like to join the Commission on Aging. The Board asked questions about his background and what area he would focus on if appointed. Mr. Conner told the Board about his background in music, physical therapy, and mechanics.

Chair Joe Ternullo and member Clemencia Saleeby both highly recommended Mr. Conner.

Bob Hebert moved to appoint Steven Conner for a 3-year term to the Commission on Aging. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 5-0

3. Fathers Club

Brian Armstrong, president of the Ridgefield Fathers Club, appeared before the Board to discuss the potential lease of town property on Halpin Lane for a clubhouse. Mr. Armstrong gave a brief history of the club and told the Board about all the volunteer and fundraising events they do for the community.

The Board asked several questions about the plans for the clubhouse. There were discussions about parking, clubhouse usage, the budget and why the fathers club is limited to fathers only.

The Board will schedule a walk through of the property. The topic will be put on the agenda for the May 10th Board of Selectmen Meeting.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30pm.

Maureen Kozlark gave an update on the WPCA Wastewater Decommissioning project. Rudy Marconi presented a brief overview of details on the proposed sale.

The following Ridgefield Residents asked questions and shared comments at the Public Hearing: John Tartaglia of 638 Danbury Road, Magdalena Finch of 125 Florida Hill Road, Greg Kabasakalian of 2 Washington Street, Kevin Brown of 55 Deer Hill Road, Thomas Behymer of 50 Blackman Road, Kent Rohrer of 287 Danbury Road, Michael Raduazzo of 195 Peaceable Street, Debra Franceschini, Christine Moor of 63 Scott Ridge Road, Kirk Carr of 62 Prospect Ridge, Lori Mazzola of 1 Circle Drive East, Geoffrey Morris from the ECDC, and Dave Goldenberg from the Affordable Housing Committee.

Attorney John Lipton, potential buyer Jake Klarsfeld and the Board of Selectmen answered the questions from the public.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:3pm.

4. Recycling Update – Tiffany Carlson

Tiffany Carlson, Recycling Coordinator, gave an update on all the projects she has been working on since her start in January. Some of the big projects include the composting program at the schools, new signs, partnering with other organizations to promote awareness about recycling and composting, and looking into ways to help municipalities become more environmentally conscious.

There was a discussion about state laws regarding recycling and what to do about waste management companies that don't follow the rules.

5. EVT – Fire Department

The Fire Department still needs an EVT. The Board talked about the different options for hiring or outsourcing.

6. Opioid Settlement Funds for Youth Services Bureau

Ridgefield will be receiving some money from the State for the opioid settlement. John Katz, Director of the Youth Service Bureau, talked about the different ways the Bureau helps families and kids.

Maureen Kozlark moved to support allocating the opioid settlement funds to the Youth Service Bureau in the amounts discussed during the meeting. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

7. Sullivan & LeShane Inc, Proposal for Gov. Affairs Engagement

Sullivan & LeShane is a company that lobbies to get grant money for municipalities. Ridgefield has a lot of opportunities to obtain grants from the state and could benefit from outside help. Another option would be to hire a grant writer. The Board will continue to research and consider different ideas.

8. FFY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Resolution

Rudy Marconi read the Homeland Security Grant Resolution.

Bob Hebert moved to approve the Homeland Security Grant Resolution. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

9. Tax Collector Refunds

Barbara Manners moved to approve the tax collector refunds in the amount of \$11,221. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bob Hebert moved to approved the April 5, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Barbara Manners abstained. Motion carries 4-0-1.

Barbara Manners moved to approve the April 12, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. Bob Hebert second the motion. Sean Connelly abstained. Motion carries 4-0-1.

11. Selectman's Report

The central dispatch for the Fire & Police Departments was rolled out on August 25th.

Marlene Gerhard has submitted her resignation from the Golf Committee.

*Barbara Manners moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 10:04pm.
Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.*