



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED

September 20, 2023 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Bob Hebert (late arrival – 7:30pm),
Maureen Kozlark **Absent:** Barbara Manners

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Branchville Schoolhouse

The Ridgefield Historical Society would like to formally undertake the stewardship of the Old Branchville Schoolhouse for the purpose of overseeing restoration and reinterpretation to secure the historical benefit to the community. Tracy Seem, Historical Society Board of Directors President, and Steven Bartkus, Historical Society Executive Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of a multi-year lease for the property.

Restoration of the schoolhouse which includes septic, well, electric, plumbing, heating, cooling, and new roofing, siding & windows, is estimated to be about \$500,000. The building will need a full inspection. There was a discussion about how the neighborhood will react. Tracy Seem commented that the goal is to be sensitive to the neighbors, keep them informed and include them in the process.

The schoolhouse will need to be registered on the State Register of Historic Places which is an in-depth process that the Historical Society has contracted to a historic preservationist.

The immediate concerns regarding upkeep of the schoolhouse are water infiltration and animal holes. The Town will have a company take a look at the roof as soon as possible.

The next step is to draft a lease and Ms. Seem will begin reaching out to

the neighbors.

3. Tax Collector Refunds

Sean Connelly moved to approve the Tax Collector refunds in the amount of \$8,021.33. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries. 3-0.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the September 6, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting minutes. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the September 6, 2023 regular meeting minutes as modified. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

Selectman's Report

The ECDC sent an annual report to the Board of Selectmen. The Board will ask the ECDC to attend a meeting to go over the details and answer questions.

At the September 6, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board voted 4-1 to send a letter in support of a pride crosswalk in town to the Board of Police Commissioners. The letter was sent to the Chair of the Police Commission, John Frey, prior to the Board of Police Commissioners meeting at which a vote will be taken, which is tonight at 7pm.

Dan Tewes and John Loehr, both residents on Main Street, have requested that a speed camera be installed on Main Street. Mr. Marconi suggested that Mr. Tewes and Mr. Loehr meet with the Board of Police Commissioners to hear their thoughts.

John Tartaglia sent a letter about the possibility of a Town Flag.

The Town is working with Connecticut Main Street on a proposed alleyway project for the alleyway that was designated pedestrian only during the Main Street project.

5. Approval of Explanatory Text for the Charter Revision Ballot Questions

Maureen Kozlark moved to add the approval of the explanatory text for

the charter revision to the agenda. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. Marconi read through the questions and the explanatory text for the charter revisions ballot questions. The Board agreed that questions 1-4 and 7-8 do not need explanations, and questions 5-6 should keep the explanations.

Bob Hebert suggested keeping the explanation for question 8 to be sure the public understands what it means. The issue is that the explanation is too long to include. The Board discussed the need for public education on the questions prior to the Town Meeting.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the explanatory text for the charter revision questions on the ballot as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Sean Connelly moved to adjourn the September 20, 2023 Board of Selectmen at 7:37pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 4-0.