



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes**  
**UNAPPROVED**

**January 3, 2024 at 7:30pm**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Present:** Rudy Marconi, Maureen Kozlark, Sean Connelly, Barbara Manners, Chris Murray

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 8:07pm, following the Special Town Meeting.

**1. Public Comment**

Greg Kabasakalian, 2 Washington, expressed concern about the condition of the chair outside Town Hall. Rudy Marconi confirmed it had been repaired before and needs to be repaired again.

Clemencia Saleeby, 66 Grove Street, stated gratitude for the grants approved during the Special Town Meeting, but expressed continued concerns about transportation.

Colette Kabasakalian, 2 Washington, expressed disappointment in the change to “Selectperson.”

**2. Appointment – Dan Tewes – Commission on Aging**

Dan Tewes and members of the Commission on Aging, Andrea Beebe, Clemencia Saleeby, and Joseph Ternullo were in attendance. Topics discussed included:

- Maureen Kozlark asked Mr. Tewes to share a specific project he’d like to take on. Mr. Tewes described the opportunity to bring together healthcare organizations to help residents understand their options and the services available in town and in the area.
- Sean Connelly asked how Mr. Tewes would effectively reach this population. Mr. Tewes discussed avenues for reaching individuals in assisted living and care facilities, in their homes, etc. through journals or pamphlets, like the Commission has done in the past.
- Mr. Ternullo, Ms. Beebe, and Ms. Saleeby expressed enthusiastic support for Mr. Tewes and the skillset he would bring to the Commission on Aging.

***Sean Connelly motioned to approve the appointment of Dan Tewes to the Commission on Aging. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

**3. Cyber Security Policy Discussion**

Andrew Neblett, Director of Information Technology was in attendance. Topics discussed included:

- Mr. Neblett expressed the need for town business to be conducted using town email and multi-factor authentication to protect the town’s network.

- Sean Connelly and Chris Murray voiced support for crafting strong language around a cyber security policy and emails should only be sent to town email addresses.
- Mr. Neblett read a portion of the Town IT Policy, which is currently a requirement for Town employees to sign. Rudy Marconi shared a copy with members of the BOS.
- Maureen Kozlark asked Mr. Neblett's ideal timeline for this policy and Mr. Marconi asked how Ridgefield compares to other municipalities in Connecticut. Mr. Neblett indicated Ridgefield is in the upper level and would like to implement as soon as possible.
- Mr. Marconi will review the existing language with town council and bring back to the BOS for further review.

#### **4. 501c3 – Friends of Ridgefield Special Project (Fountain/Peter Parley/Olmstead Lane)**

Steven Bartkus, Executive Director of the Ridgefield Historical Society, and Betsy Reid, Collections Manager at the Ridgefield Historical Society, were in attendance. Topics discussed included:

- Rudy Marconi would like to add the Friends of Ridgefield Special Project to the list of 501c3 organizations. An Angel has come forward to cover a substantial part of the project, and the 501c3 designation could encourage additional donations.
- Mr. Bartkus expressed support for the project and shared that the Ridgefield Historical Society has hired a Historic Preservation Specialist to have the Peter Parley Schoolhouse registered on the State Register of Historic Places, which will open the project up to potential future state-level funding.

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to add the Friends of Ridgefield Special Project to the list of 501c3 organizations. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

#### **5. Selectperson's Report**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on January 15 at 3:00pm at Ridgefield Playhouse.

Rudy Marconi shared an update from the recent Revenue Meeting: real estate has slowed to \$28M in November 2023, as compared to \$22M in 2022, \$66M in 2021, \$60M in 2020. Parks & Rec is ahead of schedule on revenue. Tax collection has been strong. Interest rates remain high.

Mr. Marconi shared an update Tom McManus, requesting an increase in the Town Cemetery budget, from \$20,000 to \$40,000, primarily for tree work. The BOS will receive the detailed information in their budget packets.

Mr. Marconi shared the Theatre Barn project has been completed, but they did not receive a \$400,000 state grant they had anticipated. Work has been done and the funds have been spent, and their budget has fallen short. The Theatre Barn has asked for donor contributions, and they've come to the BOS to discuss addressing their remaining balance, which is approximately \$250,000. This will be on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.

Maureen Kozlark brought up three potential new taskforces: Leaf Blower Taskforce, IT Committee from the Charter Revision, and from the Charter Revision are Town Administrator and Management Positions, specifically for the BOS to start discussing and preparing.

***Maureen Kozlark motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.***