



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

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**Bob Knight – Chair
Kay Gelfman – Vice Chair
James Classey - Secretary
Commissioner Arasa
Nadia Blair
Sean Dowd
Jennifer Gioffre
Peter Kearney
David Perlmutter (elect)**

**Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
ridgefieldct.gov**

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes
December 1st, 2025 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Annex**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm in the Town Hall Annex.

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Nadia Blair, James Classey, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, Peter Kearney and Bob Knight.

Announcements

Next meeting January 5, 2025

Public Comment

No Comment

Recap of Recent Events / Info

Commissioner Arasa mentioned we have two closing/moving out of town – Bissell’s Pharmacy and Tequila Escape. We explored the idea of conducting “exit interviews” for feedback on what leads business to come to this decision. With that said, Ridgefield had two new businesses open on Bailey Avenue: reFabjack vintage shop and Rachel Gedymin Design.

Jessica Mancini of Founders Hall will be invited to speak to the ECDC. One interesting data point she has uncovered is that the Founders Hall social club has become factor in attracting folks in the over 60 age demographics to consider moving to Ridgefield.

Old/Continued Business:

Since our last meeting, we'd like to follow up with Joy Mariconda to determine if the ECDC could be any more helpful with making her decision to start her business in town.

Guest Pamme Jones:

Pamme could not attend. ECDC will invite her to January's meeting.

Approval of November 3rd Meeting and Special Meeting November 17th Minutes:

Gelfman motions to approve the November 3rd Meeting Minutes. Classey seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Blair motions to approve the November 17th Special Meeting minutes. Classey seconded. Peter, Jen and Bob all abstained. Motion fails 4-0-3. ECDC will move to approve in January.

Approval of Edits to Annual Report:

Classey motions to approve edits to annual report. Gioffre seconds. All in favor.

Vote on 2026 Meeting Schedule:

Classey motions to approve to 2026 meeting schedule. Kearney seconded. All in favor.

Ridgefield Holiday Stroll/Market and Bailey Avenue Bazaar:

Brainstormed ideas on how to advertise for the addition of Bailey Avenue Bazaar. The addition has been well received by both Main St businesses, as it doesn't shut down Main St, as well as Bailey Avenue business owners, of course.

Cultural District:

Commissioner Arasa was meeting with the Cultural District on Tuesday 12/2. The state seems to be gathering its forces around all the CT cultural districts which could mean funding but also means collecting metrics. Corrin wrote a survey to give to our cultural district members. There will be a big meeting at Keeler Tavern on Thursday, January 22 from 10:00 - 11:30.

Chair Knight motioned to add the Cultural District Award to the agenda. Gelfman seconded. All in favor.

Marketing – December PR Push:

Commissioner Arasa published an article "Made in Ridgefield Gift Guide" as well as Holiday Marketing information and the December Destination Press Release. The Holiday Market got picked up as Plan of the Week by a local Fairfield/Westchester media outlet.

Tiger Shark Tank:

Commissioners reviewed TST revenue and expenses to get an idea for future events and how money is budgeted and allocated.

Ridgefield Connect:

Brainstorming options for our 1Q26 Ridgefield Connect Event. We have a few ideas for all of 2026.

P&Z

Nadia attended the last meeting in which vehicle signage being viewed as advertising was a major topic of discussion. Commissioners are thinking on how to respond to this.

Cultural District Award:

Commissioner Gelfman had asked Commissioner Arasa to explain her idea for an additional award. Her idea is an annual award to a small business that fosters community.

Separately, Gelfman explained what the cultural district award is and that we will be putting out the call for nominations. Nominations come from the public and our call should go out the first week of January. The ECDC votes on the nominations in March. The award is presented during the RAC "Behind the Scenes" event in May.

Executive Session:

Knight motions to enter executive session at 8:36pm to discuss real estate matters.

Commissioner Classey seconded. All in favor. Subsequently executive session ends at 8:59pm.

The Commissioners discussed several different real estate matters that are of interest during executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm