



**Ridgefield  
Economic &  
Community  
Development  
Commission**

**400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203.431-2700**

Glori Norwitt - Chair  
Corrin Arasa  
James Classey  
Sean Dowd  
Kay Gelfman  
Jennifer Gioffre  
Peter Kearney  
Bob Knight

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson  
[ridgefieldct.gov](http://ridgefieldct.gov)

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2025 at 6:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm in the large conference room in Town Hall.

In attendance: Chair Glori Norwitt, Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, Sean Dowd, Peter Kearney, and James Classey. Guest Dan O'Brien.

Motion by Norwitt to approve the July 2025 Meeting Minutes without changes. Seconded by Gioffre. All in favor.

**Recap of Recent Events / Info**

Norwitt attended the the P3 Fundamentals of Public-Private Partnerships, an event hosted by the US Conference of Mayors and the Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure in Danbury on Thursday July 17 at WestConn.

The owner of Z Boutique on Bailey Avenue contacted Norwitt to discuss ways to promote her business; Norwitt connected her with the Planning & Zoning Department to discuss a sandwich board, and also provided some marketing information.

Betsy Paynter from WestCOG attended the first ECDC Ridgefield Connect event, and plans to host local ECDCs in September.

### **Guest: Dan O'Brien of Ridgefield Historic District Commission**

The Historic District Commission ("HDC") has completed a Local Historic District Study Report for a proposed East Ridge Historic District; if the Study Report is accepted, the HDC will take next steps to have the area deemed a Historic District, which will be the third in the Town. The Report was provided to the ECDC; the HDC requests that we accept this Report. The HDC also has asked the State and the State Historic Commission and the Ridgefield Planning & Zoning Commission to accept the Report.

The HDC seeks to have East Ridge Avenue deemed a Historic District in order to protect the historic character of the neighborhood. Development would still be allowed but restricted; the architectural look and materials used would have to be appropriate for the neighborhood. For the proposal to move forward, two-thirds of all of the 19 property owners would need to vote in favor of the proposed district. Then town residents would vote at a Town meeting. Dan notes that studies show that real estate values are more secure and appreciate better in a historic district.

Dan noted if this area became an Historic District, the Playhouse could seek to install a permanent, changeable letter sign at the corner of Governor Street and East Ridge Avenue, after petition to the HDC, as long as the style conforms.

The ECDC will review the HDC Report, and anticipates voting on the Report at the next regular meeting.

### **Planning & Zoning Update (Gelfman)**

Gelfman preparing notes on Branchville area.

### **Ridgefield Connect (Kearney)**

Kearney to finalize details with Golf Performance Center; Press Release will be finalized and sent out afterwards. ECDC will contact the Ridgefield Library to request that we use their registration system again.

Discussion of future Ridgefield Connects in January/February and May, and prospective speakers/locations. Classey and Kearney working together.

### **Tiger Shark Tank (Dowd)**

Commissioner Dowd has received numerous inquiries to pitch at the event; he has held several initial meetings with potential presenters.

Tables in the lobby will include the Women's Business Development Council and possibly other resources for businesses. We are seeking sponsorship for the first time. Title sponsorship is

\$5,000; other level is \$500. Sponsors will be offered a table. InRidgefield will be the media sponsor for the event.

### **Marketing (Gioffre, Arasa)**

Discussion of Norwitt list of marketing in Ridgefield which we share with local businesses and organizations.

The ECDC website (at ridgefieldct.com) has been updated to include details on Tiger Shark Tank 4 and a downtown parking map. More updates are coming soon.

Plan to send out next ECDC email using MailChimp in the coming week to share info on Ridgefield Connect and Tiger Shark Tank events. In the future, the ECDC will consider creating an Instagram and LinkedIn account.

### **Tax Incentives & Grants**

Tabled.

### **Annual Report**

The ECDC anticipates voting on the draft Annual Report at the next regular meeting.

### **Strategic Planning**

Discussion of holding a strategic planning session.

Gioffre motions to end the meeting. Dowd seconds. All in favor.