



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

400 Main Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877 • 203-431-2700

Glori Norwitt - Chair

Geoffrey Morris – Secretary

Sean Dowd

Kay Gelfman

Jennifer Gioffre

Brittney Howell

Bob Knight

Jonathan Winn

Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
ridgefieldct.gov

Economic & Community Development Commission

Approved Minutes

January 6, 2025, at 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm in the small conference room in Town Hall.

In attendance: Chair Glori Norwitt, Secretary Geoffrey Morris, Commissioners Sean Dowd, Bob Knight, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre

Announcements

Next meeting February 3, 2025

Approval of December Minutes. Morris motioned, and Norwitt 2nd, that we approve the December meeting minutes. No changes, and all in favor.

Commissioner Jonathan Winn told Chair Norwitt that he would not seek to renew his seat on the commission.

Public Comment

Guest Mark Riser says that ECDC is doing a great job. Though a former commissioner, Riser reported on his efforts working with the Ridgefield Library to establish a networking event for work-from-home

professionals. A speaker would be the center of the event – at locations such as ACT of CT, Lounsbury House, and the Ridgefield Playhouse.

A few commissioners suggested nominating people for Chamber of Commerce annual awards. Names that came up were for Challenge Hound, which was a participant in Tiger Shark Tank, and Corrin Arasa for founding the innovative Farmers' Market. Also recommended is Chefs Warehouse and Meals on Wheels, Prime Meats, Ace Tire, and CakeBox.

Recap of Recent Events/Info

Norwitt attended the State's meeting for all Cultural Districts. They suggested that the Town and businesses/organizations post events on the CTVisit.com website. Also, Fox61 (based out of Hartford) often has "Creative Futures" reports about culture and arts people and organizations.

Norwitt spoke with Mike Glennon of *Site Selection Magazine* about their planned "CT Spotlight" for their January 2025 edition. She shared info with the Commissioners and DECD.

Britalians TV (on Roku, Vidaa, Apple TV, Google TV and Android TV in 180 countries) reached out to the ECDC, the BOS, and the Chamber to discuss the possibility of Ridgefield being promoted as the "Gem of CT."

Agenda

Annual ECDC Review

Chair Norwitt shared the Information and Guidelines For Boards, Committees, and Commissions that is required for proper procedures, communications, protocols, etc. Plus she emailed the ECDC Annual Schedule.

Election of Officers

Gioffre moved and Morris 2nd that we nominate Chair Norwitt for another term. All in favor. Norwitt moved and Gioffre 2nd that we nominate Morris for another term as secretary. All in favor.

Planning & Zoning Update

Moratorium discussion. Debated between supporting P&Z's proposal to put a moratorium on forms of new development. One side says if P&Z needs a breather, they should get one. But others said, ultimately it's an anti-business policy, and sends a bad signal to push development and growth in town. A draft opinion produced by Gelfman and Knight that opposes the moratorium was shared with the commission. Morris motioned to accept the draft that opposes the P&Z moratorium, Gioffre 2nd, all in favor. Norwitt will send the ECDC opinion to P&Z.

Marketing

CT Visits quarterly meeting is January 28 in Hartford and Commissioner Gioffre will likely attend.

Cultural District

Morris will put out the request for nominations for this year's Cultural District Award, which will take place at the Arts Council's Behind the Scenes Award ceremony in May.

Cultural District Award

Finalizing the agreement to get the approval of the CVS landlord so that we can place the Cultural District Sculpture, to be produced by Ridgefield sculptor Chris Curnan.

Film Locations

The ECDC website ridgefiedct.com now has a page for the Film Location group. Chair Norwitt will draft a release that we will put out when the Academy Award nominations are announced, in order to let people in town know that it exists and to encourage filmmakers to know that Ridgefield is open for business.

Database / Inventory

Admin for hire Tori Dinkel will be setting up MailChimp, creating an account, establishing lists, and creating an email protocol.

Motion to end the meeting by Norwitt, seconded by Dowd. All in favor. The meeting ended at 8:26 pm.