



**Ridgefield  
Economic &  
Community  
Development  
Commission**

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

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](mailto:ridgefieldct.gov)

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:30pm in Town Hall Large Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

**Call to Order:**

In attendance: Commissioners Corrin Arasa, Nadia Blair, James Classey, Sean Dowd, Kay Gelfman, Jennifer Gioffre, and Bob Knight. Commissioner elect David Perlemutter arrived at 7:00pm. Guests Indra Sen and Michelle McCabe were also in attendance.

Announcements: Next meeting is February 2, 2026.

*\* The meeting was held in the Large Conference Room instead of the Small Conference Room as listed on the agenda.\**

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Recap of Recent Events / Info**

ReachCopilot will attend our next meeting for a tutorial of their software.

Boehringer Ingelheim, Ridgefield's largest taxpayer, will invest \$10B over the next few years to expand its R&D and manufacturing in the U.S.

The Schimenti building along Route 7 is for sale. This is a perfect case study on how the ECDC can fulfill its duties as a commission. ECDC will determine ways we can assist with attracting a buyer and/or business(es) while being a resource as to why this is a viable and desirable town.

**Guest Pamme Jones:**

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

**Guest Michelle McCabe:**

Michelle is an Executive Director with the Connecticut Main Street Center. They are the state coordinating program in Connecticut for Main Street America. They assist with bringing downtowns back to life through revitalization efforts along with further enhancing the vibrancy of downtown areas throughout the state. Ridgefield's current membership lapsed in July of 2025.

Michelle discussed Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA): State agency with infrastructure grants and loans. Town identifies zones that fit CMDA profile to qualify. Main focus is housing but not exclusively housing.

Gelfman motioned to allocate \$1500 for the membership fees from our marketing budget. Knight seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners briefly discussed the idea of forming a downtown task force to help all boards and parties work towards what we'd like to accomplish as a town.

**Old/Continued Business:**

Bailey Avenue Bazaar was very well received and successful. Some participants, both retail and vendors, had a record sales day. It was a very collaborative effort across other teams. The Chamber and ECDC worked well together to plan what hopes to be an inaugural event.

Commissioner Dowd to be spotlighted in *Ridgefield Lifestyle* for bringing Tiger Shank Tank to Ridgefield. Go Sean!

Commissioner elect David Perlmutter will go before the BOS at their meeting on on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 7:30 PM at Veteran's Park School.

**Election of Officers:**

Gelfman motioned to nominate Knight as Chair. Blair seconded. All in favor

Knight motioned to nominate both Gelfman as Vice Chair and Classey as Secretary. Sean seconded. All in favor.

**Review ECDC Charge, FOI Requirements, and Code of Ethics:**

Secretary Classey shared the ECDC Charge, FOI Requirements and Code of Ethics that is required for Boards, Committees, and Commissions proper procedures, communications, and protocols. Gelfman circulated these as well via email.

### **Approval of Minutes: December Meeting & November 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting:**

Gelfman motioned to approve the December meeting minutes and November 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting minutes Bob seconded. All in favor.

*Note: The agenda item was listed as "Approval of Minutes: November meeting and Special Meeting". The minutes approved were the December regular meeting minutes and the November special meeting minutes.*

### **Discussion of Goals Derived from Strategy Session:**

Three main buckets for goal setting: BRE, Arts Cultural and Tourism, and Business Acquisition. Commissioners assigned ownership to the highest priority/most attainable goals.

### **Ridgefield Connect:**

Looking to host an event in March. Corrin is reaching out to a few different businesses for availability.

### **Cultural District:**

Corrin attended the Executive Director round table. There is huge appetite across districts for growth beyond "just a designation on a map". A survey was sent to all executive directors on what they'd like to see be done. Planning meeting is to be held on January 22nd at the Keeler tavern.

### **Cultural District Award:**

Nominations for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Cultural District Award must be submitted by January 31, 2026, at midnight. We've already seen a strong list of nominees from residents.

### **Marketing – December PR Push:**

Calendar is in the works along with creating an Instagram account.

### **Tiger Shark Tank:**

No Update

### **P&Z**

ECDC is looking for ways to relationship build with P&Z and to cohesively work together.

Knight motions to end the meeting. Dowd seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm