



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes
APPROVED

June 11, 2025 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Rudy Marconi

Absent: Barbara Manners

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He reported that the board just concluded the first Fire Commission meeting with the new fire chief.

1. Public Comment

Carl Rhode, 15 Tea House Lane, commented that there are 250 food insecure people in town and with cuts to aid, the number could rise. He fully supports Tony Phillips.

2. Commission on Aging – Post Senior Expo

Carmen Martin, Chris Nolan, and, Patty Yaffa, members of the Commission on Aging, and Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services, were present. They expressed appreciation to the board for their support and participation and to the staff for all the administrative assistance. Tony Phillips added that almost every department contributed to the success of the event. The Expo raised \$45,000. The survey results were positive with two opportunities for improvement; more speakers and better microphones. Maureen Kozlark asked if there are plans to make this an annual event. The commission will be discussing the frequency. Rudy Marconi asked if the commission discussed with Kevin Redmond where to place the funds raised. Tony Phillips explained that a special revenue and expense account was set up with Kevin Redmond.

3. Social Services Update – Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services

Tony Phillips made a presentation regarding the impacts of potential federal cuts to energy assistance, food assistance, and Medicare/Medicaid. Rudy Marconi asked if Medicare/Medicaid cover costs comparable to other insurance. Tony Phillips replied that Husky does not pay market rates. Therefore, most local doctors don't accept it. Sean Connelly asked if there is anything we can do to help residents apply for the energy assistance programs. Tony Phillips explained that the staff helps the applicants fill out the application and submit it. But there are many reasons why people don't apply. The food assistance program is very complicated with no idea how much you might even qualify to receive. Therefore, not too many

people apply. They also offer help applying for Medicare Savings Programs and other Medicaid programs. Social Services also has food and clothing assistance programs. Rudy Marconi expressed gratitude for the impressive philanthropy in Ridgefield. Donations are welcome to the Town Emergency Fund.

4. Appointments and Reappointments

a. John Richards – Commission on Aging Appointment

Carmen Martin, Chris Nolan, and, Patty Yaffa, members of the Commission on Aging, were present as well as John Richards. He provided a candidate statement and described himself as a serious gardener. He attended the Senior Expo as a vendor whose company provides nonmedical home healthcare. Maureen Kozlark asked if he has any areas of interest. He explained that he would like to give special attention to the older seniors. Sean Connelly asked if there were potential conflicts of interest between his company and his role on the commission. John Richards explained that although he doesn't foresee any conflicts, he would recuse himself from any decisions that could have even the appearance of conflict.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint John Richards to the Commission on Aging. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

b. Derrick Schirm – Ridgefield Housing Authority Appointment

Vin Liscio, Chairperson, was present as well as Derrick Schirm. He explained that he worked on the town's charter revision which informed him well on town government and all the boards, committees, and commissions. He is meeting and training with other members and the auditor. Sean Connelly asked why he chose the Housing Authority over all the other committees, and he explained that this group deals with town-owned properties and has a huge impact on 150 families. He feels that takes a personal investment to address it with care. He and his wife love this town and he wants to make that contribution.

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Derrick Schirm to the Ridgefield Housing Authority. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

c. Kay Gelfman and Geoffrey Morris (Reappointments) – Economic and Community Development Commission

Kay Gelfman and Geoffrey Morris were present. Kay Gelfman stated that she would like to continue serving on the commission to further the goals of the commission including the Tiger Shark Tank and the Ridgefield Connects for local businesspersons to meet and greet. Geoffrey Morris stated that the commission is very active with several initiatives gaining momentum. The cultural district is growing and they would like to continue serving the Ridgefield community with these endeavors.

Sean Connelly motioned to reappoint Kay Gelfman and Geoffrey Morris to the Economic and Community Development Commission. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:30PM the board meeting was adjourned to a Special Town Meeting. The board meeting was reconvened at 7:59PM.

5. America Commemorates 250 – Update from Geoffrey Morris, ECDC

Geoffrey Morris summarized that the committee is comprised of 10 members. The BOS had appointed him and Pam Jones as co-chairs of the Ridgefield Commemorates America 250 Committee. They selected the candidates who were then appointed to the committee by the BOS.

The year-long celebration kicks off this July 4 with an extended reading of the Declaration of Independence at Keeler Tavern. There will be food for purchase. Also scheduled is a Passport Scavenger Hunt for the youth with 14 items and a historical theme.

In 2026, there will be a theme parade, Evolving Liberty, July 3. A Liberty Ball at Lansbury House will follow that evening. There will be a reenactment at Ballard Park on Saturday, July 4. There will be contra dancing at the park and other activities throughout town. Fireworks will close the evening.

There will be a commercial running on Comcast and souvenir items for sale. Rudy Marconi and Sean Connelly asked about creating a video of all the events. Mr. Morris reported that a committee member is managing the social media for the commemoration.

Andrea Beebe asked how much the filming would cost because there could be underwriting donations. She said a recording would be worthwhile for the town archives.

6. Tax Collector refunds

Sean Connelly motioned to approve tax collector refunds of \$3405.75. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. May 21, 2025 Special Meeting

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting, as presented. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

b. May 21, 2025 BOS Meeting

Sean Connelly noted page 1, section 3, fourth line should be 'an' not 'and'; page 2, number 4, third line down, Sean's last name is Connelly not Murray; item 7 title is Ability Beyond not just Ability; top of page 3, meeting adjourned to Public Hearing not a town meeting; bottom of page 3, sell the current 'fire department' building; page 3, number 8, Fire Chief name not Police Chief name; page 3, Selectpersons Report comment that a Pet Memorial is proposed on Ligi's Way, by Roar, and privately funded; page 4, new public safety building not new building.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Budget Meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

8. Selectpersons Report

Rudy Marconi reported that a grant came in for \$280,000 for the headwall on Canterbury Lane leaving a cost to the town of \$102,000.

Also, Joe Adams, member of Ridgefield Cable Advisory Council, resigned effective June 13, 2025.

Halpin Court is the rental building with 25 apartments. The town owns the land. The owners of the rental building would like town approval to maintain the building as affordable housing and turn over lease management to Acadia. Rudy Marconi shared that the parking lot above this property is usually empty, therefore, he would like to propose to the building owners, that in exchange for assigning the lease, the town would like access to the parking lot. Sean Connelly suggested inventory of the Acadia Parking lot spaces.

The project on Laurel Hill off of Florida Road, a private road, requires repairs. There are discussions to determine how to cover the cost.

The Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRRA) hosted a composting facility tour with 35 guests from around the state.

Greylock LLC, 145 High Ridge has submitted a site plan application to Inland Wetlands Board for 40 total units with 65 parking spots, pending remediation being overseen by the state. The neighborhood is very upset.

The school bus traffic and routes will be reconsidered to improve traffic patterns.

There are 5 interviews for fire on June 13th and 7 interviews for Board of Selectperson Vacancy on Friday, June 20th.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9PM. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 3-0.