

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Rustic Ridge Association, Inc. held Saturday, August 15, 1964 at 2:00 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Northfield School for Girls.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Harold McGrath.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mark Ray.

Call of the meeting was read by the Clerk, Miss Gertrude Lauber.

Word of greeting was expressed to several guests.

Treasurer's Report:- Miss Ruth Card reported a balance on hand of \$1530.01 with bills payable of \$167.50 and road appropriation of \$1079.

(Copy of report attached to these minutes.)

Auditing Committee:- Dr. Francis Jones reported that the Auditing Committee had examined the books of the clerk and the treasurer and found them correct.

Report of President:- Mr. Harold McGrath gave a summary of the year's work stating that all committees had functioned successfully. The Board of Directors met with the Town Board of Assessors and Board of Selectmen. Both of these interviews will be reported later in the meeting.

Report of Clerk:- Miss Gertrude Lauber reported that the President's Annual Letter had been sent out with the Ridge Tax bills, all Committees were notified of their appointments. There was one change in ownership - Miss Josephine Moody's cottage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Mancini. There are still a few cottages for sale - information regarding them can be obtained from our Ridge Representative, Ted Powell. Members are reminded to notify the clerk of any change in address.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to accept reports of all Officers.

Necrology Committee:- Mrs. Helen Anderson reported the death of Mr. Wallace B. Marston, Mrs. Catherine Jones Johnson, and Miss Lucy Jackson.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Gordon Poole.

Road Committee:- Mr. Earl Loomis gave the following report - "The past winter caused only minor damage to our roads. Plans are under way to employ the combined road improvement funds for two years in completing projects scheduled for this September or the early summer of 1965. These projects are:

- 1- Sealing, graveling and rolling the down-grade portion of Heath Lane and all of Wood Way.
- 2- Grading, asphaltting and replacing culvert on Oak Terrace, from Woodruff to level area near Mountain Road.
- 3- Sealing, graveling and rolling East Lane, and part of Ledge Way from East Lane to end of hard surface road up the hill.
- 4- Patching of edges at a few places on Mountain Road and Glen Road. Annual maintenance will be provided by sweeping leaves and pine needles from road surfaces and drains both in the late fall and late spring to reduce potential damage to roads from heavy rains.

In evaluating expenditures required in subsequent years, the Committee recommends use of annual appropriations economically by determination each year whether a one-year project or a combined two year project will be advantageous.

Insect Control:- It was reported that two sprayings of the Ridge were contracted for this year.

Sanitation Committee:- It was reported that Mr. Gardiner Hudson was doing a splendid job in collecting our garbage. A number of extra jobs were given him by our members.

Road Signs and Directory:- Rev. Kenneth Page reported that he hoped to be able to take all name signs home this winter and repaint them.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to accept all reports of Committees.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED TO ACCEPT the proposed Budget for 1964-65.

(Proposed Budget included in Treasurer's report on separate sheet)

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED that the Active Members Dues of Rustic Ridge Association, Inc. for the year 1964-65 be 1 3/4% of the Town Assessment for 1961.

Nominating Committee:- Mr. Carlton La'Hommedieu read the following report -

President	-	Mr. Harold McGrath		
Vice Pres.	-	Mr. Earl Loomis		
Treasurer	-	Mr. George W. Loos, Jr.		
Clerk	-	Miss Gertrude Lauber		
Ass't. Clerk	-	Mr. Edward M. Powell, Jr.		
Directors	-	Mr. C. J. Broadhead	(Term Expires	1965)
	-	Mr. Arthur R. Parker	" "	1965)
	-	Dr. Walter C. Chapin	" "	1966)
	-	Dr. Charles Crain	" "	1966)
	-	Mrs. Gordon Poole	" "	1967)
	-	Rev. John Moore	" "	1967)

(List of suggested Committees on separate sheet attached)

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED that report be accepted, nominations be closed and clerk to cast one ballot.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED that list of Committees be referred to Board of Directors for ratification and approval.

Report of Board of Directors of interview with Board of Assessors:-

Mr. Arthur Parker reported that several Board members had met with the Board of Assessors and asked about the proposed tax structure.

1. The Massachusetts law states that elderly persons 70 years and up be allowed \$4,000 exemption on property valuations.
2. Several years ago questionnaires were sent out and returned. The Assessors used these to aid in setting valuations.
3. Last year you were taxed on a 30% valuation and this year it was 60% of full value of property. Next year you will be taxed at full market value and the tax rate will be reduced accordingly.
4. It was stated that 1/3 were increased, 1/3 lowered, 1/3 **remained** there may be a possibility of errors, if in your thinking you should figure what your property would sell for and if you have a question you may meet with the Assessors on Wednesday evenings.

5. Personal Taxes - this is figured on same ratio as real estate. If anyone feels their assessment is too high they can make a list of personal property with value of each item, submit to Board of Assessors in January.
6. If Ridge Members not satisfied, new questionnaires can be filled out. The Assessors could have State Tax men come in and reassess all properties. Could leave value on all properties as they are except those on North Lane and Woodruff Way who are on Town roads.
7. As for School property being leased - this tax is to be paid by the lessees as the Schools don't pay tax on this land.

Report of Road Committee meeting with Board of Selectmen. Mr. Earl Loomis stated that the Selectmen have little authority for maintaining the roads as the State intervenes by sending an inspector and he would not approve maintenance on Woodruff Road.

The Selectmen will study the bad turn on North Lane regarding more warning to motorists on those turns.

2. Woodruff Road where Ledge Way is low, they will consider the possibility of raising Woodruff Road from the Holloway steps down to prevent a car from turning over.
3. They will patch North Lane and Woodruff Road each year but doubted the State approval of oiling same.

Our Representative, Mr. Ted Powell reported that the Fire Department checked the signs and stand pipes and found them in order. He also stated that the State Police had checked our properties and given him posters which were available at the meeting for those who needed them to replace any on cottages.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to thank Mrs. Helen Anderson for taking care of the refreshments at today's meeting.

A vote of thanks and gratitude were expressed to Mr. Harold McGrath for his faithful service.

A vote of thanks was given to Ted Powell for his services and cooperation in Ridge matters.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gertrude K. Lauber
Clerk.