

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Rustic Ridge Association, Inc., held Saturday, August 9, 1980 at 2:00 P.M. at the Music Hall of Northfield Schools.

Meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. John Hann 3rd.

Rev. Warren Snyder opened the meeting with prayer.

The call of the meeting was read by the clerk, Miss Gertrude Lauber.

At this time the President welcomed new members and owners on the Ridge - Mr. & Mrs. Sonosky (the Erb cottage); Dr. Lucy Ellen Hann (the Mosse cottage); Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kelley (the Devin-Swanson cottage); Mr. & Mrs. James Sheering (the Stillings cottage).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

Report of President: Normally I would review events of the past year. However, this year those events are insignificant when we consider that three long time residents of the Ridge passed away-- three personal friends--people who loved and cherished Northfield. The Ridge was enriched by their lives. I am using my report to outline issues which are now being considered by your directors.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss matters of concern. In some cases these are items of general interest. In other cases they may be matters involving some controversy. In those cases I will attempt to resort to some formal procedures of order to resolve the controversy. In any case, please feel free to discuss any Ridge business at this annual gathering.

The seating arrangement was suggested by Gordon Poole. It is designed to encourage discussion and participation. Please let us know your feelings on this issue. As I introduce some of the topics which will be discussed during this meeting, I will try to avoid preempting anyone else's report. I want to offer my own comments on some issues as well as convey to you the directors position on some of these issues.

1. Spraying Survey Results - This survey was designed to elicit a response for or against spraying in general as well as to find out how everyone felt about the job being done on the Ridge. The third question was intended to demonstrate that there are many options which can be considered in order to help people in the discussion making process as well as to test the consistency of responses. The survey findings are important to the officers and directors as they consider future issues.

70% want spraying 30% do not want spraying. This is a general conclusion from question one if one excludes those respondents who weren't sure. Including all responses to question one, 50% are strongly or somewhat in favor; 30% are not sure; and 20% are opposed to spraying.

Most people are satisfied with the spraying job being done on the Ridge. 25% wanted increased spraying and 25% wanted less spraying. 50% were satisfied. This is an endorsement of the past and present practices.

2. Gypsy Moth Problem - This issue will be discussed today. Warren Snyder is prepared to report on Town, County and State plans and will closely track the future plans of these organizations. Many of us suffered severe damage this past spring and the prospects for next year appear even worse. Though we are not in a position to make proposals today, discussion of the issue may prove beneficial.

During the past year Miss Frances Pearson and others have sent me articles on the gypsy moth. These are available for everyone's perusal. The directors and officers are alert to the potential problem of next year's gypsy moth infestation.

3. Water Company Report - The problem this spring when the water was first turned on was an unusual situation and hopefully will not happen again. I contacted the water company in order to discuss this past problem as well as prospects



for the future.

The condition of the plant -- the waterlines themselves -- is bad. However, the cost to upgrade the water system on the Ridge will not be levied against us but rather is considered as a part of the total rate base. This means that the costs will be averaged across the company.

The School's Water Company is a public utility whose rates are set following public hearings by the Public Utilities Commission of Massachusetts. The Water Company is obligated to continue to provide water service to the Ridge. The water lines on the Ridge are being replaced. Plans are to replace one to two thousand feet per year. There is no feasible way to bury these lines.

4. School Tennis Courts - Many of us use the Northfield School tennis courts. Significant maintenance work has been done this year on these courts. Continued donations from those who use the courts is a signal to the School that we appreciate their goodwill and neighborliness.
5. Meeting with new Head of Northfield Mount Hermon Schools. - We welcome Dr. Unsworth who was recently appointed Head of the School. We had hoped to arrange to meet him. He is not presently available but Mr. David Powell has been asked to arrange a meeting with Dr. Unsworth and the Ridge residents.
6. Special Recognition - I wish to express my thanks to the many people who have helped the Ridge this past year. Dave and Lucia Powell have worked hard on the garden at the entrance to the Ridge. Marilyn Williams has been doing a notable job publishing and distributing the "Ridge Runner". The committees, officers, and directors have worked hard. Because everyone pitches in and does a share of the work we are able to accomplish a significant amount. Special thanks are in order for Gertrude Lauber who manages the business of the Ridge. She is essentially the business manager of this corporation and does the lion's share of the work. The president's job would be very difficult without her very able assistance.

John Hann, 3rd.

Report of Clerk: All meeting notices were mailed out according to our by-laws. The President's annual letter, and all other necessary correspondence was taken care of. We would like to make up a new membership list for 1981 and need some address changes. Please notify the clerk of any change in address or ownership so the list can be kept up to date at all times.

Report of Ridge Representative: Ted Powell stated that since the town has regular Police Department the State does not inspect our cottages, should the police need help the State Police will come to assist them. The town tax rate for the new year has not been set as yet. The town dump must be closed and arrangements are not complete. All residents should leave their home address at the Post Office before leaving for the winter.

Auditing Committee: Mr. John Hann, Jr. reported that the books of the treasurer were audited and found in excellent order.

Treasurer's Report: Miss Ruth Card reported a balance on hand of \$2,970.18.  
(Copy of this report attached to these minutes)

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

Road Committee: Mr. George Marston reported that the committee went around the Ridge with Mr. William Walker last September. Patching was needed on the 7th Ridge, Heath Lane, East Lane, Wood Way, West Lane and Ledge Way. We recommended that the corner by the Denise cottage be raised and a couple reflecting posts be put in. We also recommended that a large frost heave by the Erb cottage be removed and the accumulation of sand and gravel from Woodruff Way on the upper end of Willow Lane be cleaned up. We continued to urge that the culvert on Wood Way by Miss Gile's cottage be replaced. This had been on our project list since 1978



During July Mr. Walker accomplished much of the requested work including the culvert on Wood Way. His work is good when he does it and his price is reasonable, the problem is to get him to do it.

At the end of last summer we had the undergrowth cut along North Lane between West Lane and the sharp corner above Woodruff Way.

Some patching remains to be done but in general the roads appear to be in reasonably good shape for the type of roads they are.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the help our president gave in urging Mr. Walker to complete some of the needed work. Also Miss Cheek helped by pointing out to Mrs. Parenteau, chairman of the Selectmen, the need for patching on Woodruff Way and the hazardous bump on the lower end of North Lane. Both situations were improved within two weeks. Woodruff Way has considerable traffic year round and we hope the town will place it on their priority list to be recoiled and stoned in the near future.

The Road Committee always welcomes suggestions from Ridge Residents for road improvements that seem desirable.

Insect Control : Mr. Warren Snyder reported that a mosquito spraying contract was again made with Bourbeau Painting Inc. of Montague, Mass. The contract at a cost of \$350. per spraying, total cost \$700. this represents an increase of \$30. over the previous contract.

The following conditions were added to the contract:

1. The ratio of spray (Malathion) mix to water is to be an accurately measured ratio in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.
2. All open areas within Rustic Ridge and the perimeter around Rustic Ridge will be sprayed.
3. There will be two sprayings, May 23 and July 9. These dates will be altered if it is raining or if rain is forecast or threatening.

The May 23 date was postponed and the first spraying was accomplished on May 30, the second spraying was accomplished on the predetermined date.

Sanitation Committee: Miss Gertrude Lauber reported that Mr. William Smith of Winchester was contracted to take care of waste removal at a cost of \$375.00 with the understanding that should the price of gas increase considerably the contract would be reviewed. We would like to express our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Baudouin for help in to distribute the waste removal schedules.

The Town Dump will be open until October 1st and possibly until "snow flies". The town has a special committee studying the situation and has made tentative arrangements with the town of Bernardston to use their dump. The town has an area in West Northfield for brush which will be available when the present dump closes.

Road Signs and Directory: Mr. Robert Brown reported that with the exception of Kelley sign, all signs are up and in order.

Necrology Committee: Mrs. Bernice Rubyor reported the following members who passed away during the past year - Mrs. Sarah Rusk, Nov. 22, 1979; Dr. Walter Chapin, April 16, 1980 and Miss Dorothy Doremus, June 21, 1980. A sympathy card from the Association were sent to the families of the deceased.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously Voted to accept all committee reports as presented.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously Voted to adopt the Budget for 1980-81 as presented by the Board of Directors.

(Copy attached to these minutes)



The Board of Directors recommended that the Dues for 1980-81 be \$26.00 per cottage and the Associate Members dues be \$2.00 each. A motion was duly made and voted upon and lost by a vote of 9 in favor and 15 opposed.

Upon motion being duly made and seconded, it was Voted that the Active Members dues for the year 1980-81 be \$30.00 per cottage and the Associate Members dues by \$3.00 each. (21 in favor 3 opposed)

Nominating Committee: Mrs. Dorothy Noble presented the following slate of Officers and Directors:-

- President - Mr. John Hann, 3rd
- Vice Pres. - Mr. Nelson Harris
- Treasurer - Miss Ruth Card
- Clerk - Miss Gertrude Lauber
- Asst. Clerk - Mr. Edward Powell, Jr.
- Directors - Miss Frances Pearson - Term Expires 1981
- Mr. George Marston " " 1981
- Mrs. Audrey Parker " " 1982
- Mr. Warren Snyder " " 1982
- Mrs. Marilyn Williams " " 1983
- Dr. Eric Gardner " " 1983

Voted that the nominations be closed and the clerk to cast one ballot.

The Nominating Committee presented a list of Committees for the year.

- Road Committee - Mr. George Marston, Chmn.  
Mr. Gordon Poole  
Mr. Nelson Harris
- Sanitation - Miss Gertrude Lauber, Chmn.  
Mrs. Eugene Baudouin  
Mr. Floyd Rusk
- Road Signs and Directory - Mr. Robert Brown, Chmn.  
Rev. Kenneth Page  
Mr. John Hann, Jr.
- Insect Control - Mr. Warren Snyder, Chmn.  
Mrs. Eugene Baudouin
- Necrology - Mrs. Bernice Rubyor

Voted that the list of committees be referred to the Board of Directors for ratification and appointment.

Mr. Snyder reported on condition of Gypsy Moth stating that the State has made no provision for spraying, the County is waiting for the State and the Town is waiting for both. It is recommended that everyone paint the egg masses with creosote. A special meeting on the Gypsy Moth situation will be held in Greenfield on August 20th when representatives from the State, County and Towns will be present.

Mrs. Marilyn Williams announced that copies of the "Ridge Runner" were available to those who may not have received one and that Ridge Histories can be had at \$1.50.

Ted Powell announced the new number for contacting the town police - 772-0658.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion was made to adjourn. Mr. Gordon Poole closed the meeting with prayer.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Nancy Hann punch and cake was served.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gertrude K. Lauber*  
*Clk*