

Annual Meeting
Rustic Ridge Association, Inc.
August 5, 1995 - 10:00 AM

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Warren Snyder.

The meeting was called to order by president Warren Snyder. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 1994 annual meeting. A motion was approved to accept the minutes as written.

Warren Snyder gave a brief (and humorous) state of the Ridge address and special thanks to the following Association members:

- Lucia Powell for "keeping the books"
- Ed Burdick for his tenure as president
- the "Solid Waste Team" for their diligence and tenacity (Jim Broadhead, Trish White, Hoyt Chapin, John Voorhies et.al)
- Lucia Powell and George Thomas for their work on the Ridge flower gardens
- Michael Hanrahan for his donation of the copper roof on the Ridge directory at the foot of North Lane
- Ken Hoff for his contributions as Ridge representative to the town
- Bob Huber for his watchful care of the Ridge cottages
- David Berger for his annual updating of the Ridge address directory

Warren Syder reported that there had been some discussion of changing the board meeting structure so that the first board meeting, Annual meeting and second board meeting could be held on the same day in order to capitalize on members' time. It was felt that it was too time consuming to require board members to dedicate three Saturday mornings to these activities. It was decided that the board members would work out the details of the proposed one day schedule.

Reports of the Officers:

Treasurer Lucia Powell presented an analysis of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1995 and reported a closing balance of \$3494.29. Auditor Warren Snyder confirmed that he had reviewed the financial records and that they were in order and the treasurer's report was correct. It was voted to accept the report.

Reports of Committees:

Recycling/Sanitation Committee - There is no recycling of plastics at this time. Mr. Hewitt's trash pick-up expense was \$865.16.

Road Maintenance Committee - The chair of this committee has resigned from the Ridge Association. Warren Snyder has attempted to talk with the town about repair of town roads on the Ridge. He is also attempting to secure a contractor to repair roads for which the Ridge is responsible.

Memorial Committee - Elaine Harned reported that during the year Beatrice Cheek and Mabel Sayre ("Aunt Mabel") had died. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance.

Surveillance Committee - It was reported that there there was no observance of problems during this winter of deep snow.

Ridge Representative - Ken Hoff prepared a report on the proposed sludge compacting plant activities during the preceding months including a file of press clippings. A copy of that report will be added to our files.

It was voted to accept the committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion about a small cable disconnect fee and about the letterhead design contest for Rustic Ridge stationery. Jane Sonoski's was the first submission and additional submissions are still being encouraged.

Warren read a note from the Franklin County Survival Center thanking the Ridge Association for our \$310 contribution to the center's work in feeding and clothing needy Northfield and other Franklin County residents.

Warren Snyder clarified the annual water charges. \$143.75 was the one-time fee and \$76 was the 1995 charge for water usage.

There was an extended discussion about the progress of the Ridge initiative to oppose the location of the sludge compacting plant in Northfield. Jim Broadhead, Hoyt Chapin and Trish White each spoke about the following:

- The status of the town of Northfield's opposition to the project including the lack of a full understanding of the tax implications and the town's political structure and process

- The need for contributions from Ridge members to support the ongoing legal action including potential support from non-Ridge individuals pending Ridge support. An average contribution of \$1000 per person was suggested.
- Involvement with the Connecticut River Watershed Association including tax-deductible contributions. The pig roast this evening is an example of a fund raising event for the benefit of this organization.
- The hiring of a Boston law firm to represent the Ridge
- The weak response of Northfield Mount Hermon to this perceived threat given that it is the largest taxpayer in town
- Special thanks to Brian Bordner "we owe him a debt of thanks" and to David Powell for his work with NMH

NEW BUSINESS

The report of the Nominating Committee was given by Warren Snyder. The Clerk was authorized to cast one ballot for those nominated by the committee. The nominees were voted by acclamation.

The budget for 1995-96 was reviewed by the Treasurer and approved. It was voted to leave the dues at the current amount.

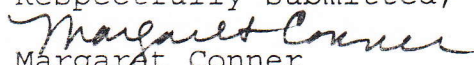
It was suggested that the 1995-96 charitable contribution be made to the Northfield Fire Department.

The updated Ridge Directory will be available after the meeting.

Ridge members were encouraged to clear brush from around their cottages and "look around" for trees that needed to be removed for safety precaution.

Merelice England suggested that because the Willows could no longer be safely used as an exit from West Lane because of the condition of the road (potholes, ect.) that the direction of West Lane be changed to allow residents to exit on to North Lane. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted to authorize the West Lane cottage owners to change the exiting direction of West Lane per notification of all residents on West Lane.

Members were reminded to attend the Pig Roast "tonite". The meeting was adjourned at noon with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

 Margaret Conner
 Clerk, Rustic Ridge Association

Rustic Ridge Assoc. Inc.
Annual Meeting
August 4, 1995 10:00 AM
President's Report

In this, my first "state of the Ridge" report, I would like to focus on how the Ridge is a better place since I took office and how much better off you are.

My presidency has been compared to that of Jimmy Carter. People say such nice things such as, "He's a nice guy," and "He made us laugh and his first year has been a joke."

Looking at taxes, I did not make the same mistake as George Bush. He said, "Read my lips. No new taxes"! Then he raised taxes. I made no such promise and your taxes didn't go up.

Now I know some of you will argue that your taxes did go up. No! You paid more money but your taxes didn't go up. What went up was the value of your property. So you see, you are much better off today. Furthermore, look at the increase in town services you are now getting.

One year ago most of us didn't have a clue about the inventory and value of our personal property in our cottages. Now for only a few \$ extra in P.P. taxes / yr. we all know what we have, what it is worth and the town knows how rich we really are. If you ever have a fire you will more than recover the extra P.P. taxes with your up-to-date inventory and values. Again, your taxes didn't increase; only your values.

Let me speak about another matter so important today — Damn-sizing of Government. During my 1st year as president about half of the ^{leaders} have either resigned, quit, sold their cottages or failed to function.

"Lean and Mean may describe the Association today. — leadership — lean
— membership — mean

Need I speak of other ways you are better off — such as being on the verge of becoming neighbor to the largest trash composting plant in the world. Imagine how you can boast back home.

Thanks

Officers and Board members

- leadership provided
- sacrifice of time

Lucia

Committee people

- carrying out your responsibilities

Ken Hoff

- Faithful communication of town happenings. (w/out a job-description)

Bob Huber & Michael Hannahan

- Keeping watch over our cottages

George Thomas & Lucia Powell

- beautiful gardens at entrance

Michael Hannahan

- gift of copper roof on directory

Lucy Livingston & George Thomas

- new signs and directory

James Breadhead, Trish White, Hoyt Chapin

- leadership of opposition to solid waste composting plant.

George Thomas -

- Cable T.V.

Others ?

Lebank Samuel

Ed Bardick

Reshaping How We Carry out Ridge Business

1. Committees of one
 - delegation encouraged
 - training encouraged
2. Communication
 - increased use of phone and mail between Officers, Board Members and Committee persons.
3. Concentration of Board Meetings and Annual Meeting on 1st Sat. of August.
 - Board Meeting 8:30 or 9:00 AM
 - Annual Meeting 10:00 AM
 - Board Meeting - following Annual meeting.

Summary

Not a great year;
we survived.

If everyone (leaders, membership) assumes responsibility at some level -
Rimble Ridge will continue to be a
place of delight.