

Rustic Ridge Annual Meeting
August 3, 1996

The meeting was opened with prayer by Charles Crain.

The meeting was called to order by Warren Snyder, president of the Rustic Ridge Association. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 1995 annual meeting.

Warren Snyder reported that over the past few months, he had been reflecting on the amount and nature of the work required of the officers and board to keep the association running smoothly, particularly in light of differing vacation schedules on the Ridge. He suggested that more individuals volunteer to take on small projects, thus freeing the officers and directors to spend the limited time available on strategic issues which will impact our future. He also thanked the following people for their contributions to the work of the association:

- Margie Conner for her support of the president and carrying out of the clerk's responsibilities
- Ken Hoff as Rustic Ridge Association representative to the town of Northfield
- Members of the Board and especially to Hoyt Chapin and LeRoy Martin for stepping forward to serve
- Dave Powell for his work on the roads and for installing a replacement mirror on North Lane
- George Thomas and the Powells for our beautiful flower beds
- Lucia Powell for her work as treasurer and for her "administrative council"
- Trish White, Jim Broadhead and Hoyt Chapin for their leadership
- To all Ridge Association members who have called to offer support and suggestions over the past year

Reports of the Officers

Treasurer - Lucia Powell presented an analysis of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1996 and reported a closing balance of \$4624.95. Auditor Ed Burdick confirmed that he had reviewed the financial records and that they were in order and the Treasurer's report was correct.

Trash and Recycling - Warren Snyder has contacted Thomas Walker to collect the trash as Mr. Hewitt is no longer able to do it. Pick-up is now on Saturday morning. Residents were asked to put their trash cans in back of their cottages after pick-up if possible. Warren clarified the point that the town of Northfield has private trash-pick up throughout the town - not just on the Ridge.

Road Committee - David Powell submitted a report which was read by Ted Denise. In June, Steve Wiggin had agreed to do some priority repairs of Oak Terrace near the Thompson and Voorhies cottages and on Heath Lane between the Cara and Stearn cottages. As of the annual meeting, some of the work had been accomplished but the project warrants follow-up. David also contacted NMH about trimming brush from the Willows road and that has been done. Hopefully,

contacted NMH about trimming brush from the Willows road and that has been done. Hopefully, the road will be repaired by the fall. Thanks also to Bob Huber for helping obtain and install a replacement mirror for North Lane which had collapsed due to "metal anguish"!

Road Signs and Directory - Lucy Livingston reported it had been a quiet year. (N.B - could this committee be responsible for removing the aforementioned mirror in the fall along with the road signs as suggested in the Road Committee's report?)

Memorial Committee - Elaine Harned reported that there was no report this year.

Garden Committee - George Thomas reported that a batch of beautiful mums had been donated by the Meyer-Martin contingent - Thanks!!

Ridge Representative - Ken Hoff said that property taxes had increased slightly, a tax override had been denied and that there was little other news to report other than the on-going debate over the proposed sludge-processing plant.

Taxpayers for a Safe and Prosperous Northfield - Trish White reported that we are apparently successful at this point in delaying Bennett's start as he does not yet have a number of approvals he needs in order to begin construction including those from the EPA and the DEP. The state of Massachusetts is definitely paying attention now. He has to resolve a number of outstanding issues by December 10 or his plans will be shelved. The situation is very hopeful and Jim Broadhead added that it remains a serious situation but the momentum has definitely changed to our side. He said that \$98,000 has been raised in the last two years with zero from NMH and very little from the town. There is currently \$1,346 remaining in this fund and substantial work left to do. Jim asked the members to consider giving additional money to the fund as a charitable contribution. There was a round of applause for the work of this committee.

OLD BUSINESS

It was noted that cable service selections will improve over the next year.

Warren Snyder discussed the 1995 charitable contribution from the Rustic Ridge Association. It was noted that the initial thought to donate \$310 to the Northfield Volunteer Fireman's Association was changed because we donated this contribution to the Jaws of Life fund in 1995.

Water charges were defined as the total usage amount divided by the number of cottage owners which worked out to be \$94.64 per cottage in 1996.

SERVING THE ASSOCIATION - NOMINATIONS

The report of the nominating committee was given. The Clerk was authorized to cast one ballot for those nominated. It was noted that the vice-president's position was still open and should be filled. The nominees were voted by acclamation:

President Margaret Conner
Vice President John Voorhies
Treasurer Lucia Powell
Clerk Marilyn Williams
Directors '99 Tim Harned, Edward Sonoski
'98 Hoyt Chapin, Leroy Martin
'97 Carol Santos, George Thomas (fills vacancy left by John Voorhies)

Announcements - The Sommers cottage at 9 Pine Road is for sale as is the Paparazzi cottage in Pine Grove addition.

Ridge residents are encouraged to attend the high quality summer cultural events in Northfield sponsored by the Mass Arts Council.

NEW BUSINESS

The budget for 1996-97 was reviewed by the treasurer and approved. It was voted to increase the cottage dues to \$50 per cottage and leave the associate members' dues unchanged. This is the first dues increase in at least 10 years. The additional revenues will help us address the deteriorating road conditions on the ridge.

It was recommended that the Association divide our annual charitable contribution between the library and the new Northfield community newsletter.

It was noted that Miss Gertrude Lauber and Miss Ruth Card had withdrawn their membership from the Rustic Ridge Association. It was suggested that a letter be sent to them expressing our thanks for their contributions to Ridge life over the years.

Members were reminded about the pool party this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Conner
Clerk