



Rustic Ridge Association, Inc.

**Rustic Ridge Association Annual Meeting
August 7, 2004
Music Hall, Northfield-Mount Hermon School
Northfield, Massachusetts**

At 9:45, with a quorum present, the call to meeting was made by Marilyn Williams, Clerk, with Bob Caruthers, President, chairing the Annual Meeting. Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Rustic Ridge Association (RRA) previously circulated were approved. Mr. Caruthers introduced Judy and Chuck Baker, new members.

Carol Lebo, assistant to Richard Mueller, NMH Head of School, spoke to the membership and answered questions. She stated no decisions had been made about the sale/lease of a major portion of the Northfield campus other than to lower the number of students and to use less property by September 2005. Funds have been budgeted for the upkeep of all school properties. There is a web-site available for current information – www.NMHSchool.org. It was anticipated that 875 students would enroll for the 2004 – 2005 school year. NMH plans to retain ownership of the auditorium, the Birthplace, the Homestead, and Round Top.

Discussion from the members ensued. It was hoped that the recreational part of the Northfield campus used by Northfield residents and NMH employees could remain public. General use of RRA roads, which members maintain, could become a future problem should NMH-owned land bordering the Ridge be developed. Some members requested that NMH, owner of the water company serving the Ridge, extend service through October 31.

Mr. Caruthers reported for Audit Chair, Edward Burdick, that the RRA books were in order.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Snyder, for Lucia Powell, Treasurer, gave a current report. The monies budgeted for roadwork had not been spent. The balance at the budget's close was \$15,392.46. On motion of Philip Livingston, seconded MK Merelice, the membership unanimously accepted the treasurer's report.

Roads: Alan Abel, Chair, announced that Bob Ziegenhagen agreed to be Co-chair. Volunteers "weed-whacked" and cleared winter detritus from roadsides on two workdays. Major work, surfacing, grading, etc., which has not been done since 2002, is scheduled for this October.

Signs: Chair Lucy Livingston reported that a second large entrance sign is to be constructed at the Ridge's north end. It was suggested the sign be installed at the corner of Linden and Carlton Avenues.

Necrology: Elaine Harned, Chair, announced the deaths of Lucy Hann, John Keating and Robert Heydenreich. Appropriate books will be donated in their memories to the Dickinson Library.

Gardens: It was reported that volunteers are needed to maintain the gardens at the North Lane entrance to the Ridge, and that the committee is ordering more perennials.

Security: Nils Kersgard, on behalf of Diedre Gilmore, reported that they patrol the Ridge in the off-season. During the 2003-2004 season, no damage to property or break-ins were reported.

Trash Removal: Mr. Snyder stated he had contracted with Steve Severance for the 2004 season.

Ridge Representative: Sue Ross reported the Pioneer Valley School system is in good shape, that prices of Northfield houses have risen, and that the Fire Department is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2004. The Town Selectmen formed a 20-person committee representing different stakeholders to interact with NMH on the sale/lease of portions of the Northfield campus. Questions about the impact on safety, infrastructure, water and environment have arisen. A subcommittee is exploring the possibility of the "legacy buildings" being opened to the public. Possible changes to the recreational areas of the Northfield campus are also being monitored.

Old Business

Mr. Caruthers reported that a second version of the proposed By-laws was distributed prior to the Annual Meeting. The major revision was addition of an indemnification clause. He said that after further research and editing had been completed, the Board would circulate the proposed by-laws prior to next summer's Annual Meeting.

New Business

RRA's annual charitable contribution will be designated at the next Board meeting.

Charlotte Martin, Nominating Chair, announced the Committee's slate: President: Bob Caruthers, Vice-President: Adrienne Hawkinson, Clerk: Margaret Burdick, and Treasurer: Lucia Powell. The Directors nominated were Shari Broadhead and Dick Young to serve three-year terms. On motion of LeRoy Martin, seconded by Carol Ziegenhagen, it was unanimously agreed that nominations be closed and accepted.

Mr. Snyder presented the previously-circulated budget for 2004-2005. Anticipated revenues were \$22,902.46, planned expenses were \$20,042.85, and the cash surplus was \$2,859.61. The Board will consider altering the date or dates for brush removal in the future. On motion of Marcia Heydenreich, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the 2004-2005 budget as presented was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Ziegenhagen gave a visually-enlarged demonstration of the RRA web-site ([www.RusticRidge Org.](http://www.RusticRidgeOrg/) / Password: Northfield)

Announcements

- The annual picnic was to be held at the NMH Pavilion at 6:00 PM.
- Janet Abel announced the annual Ridge service at the Trinitarian Congregational Church would be at 10:00 PM on Sunday, August 8, 2004.
- Cabins for sale would be open for inspection between 2- 4PM on Saturday, August 7th. The Northfield Historical Society would be open that Saturday from 2-4 PM also. It is publishing a color-calendar for 2005, Mrs. Williams announced. She had order forms available.
- Mr. Young has photos from the centennial celebration which will be posted on the RRA web-site.

Mrs. Hawkinson presented a big bouquet to Mrs. Williams in recognition of her many years of service to RRA as President and Clerk.

The Rev. Marcia Heydenreich closed the meeting with prayer at 12:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret M. Burdick, Clerk
9/6/04