

**Rustic Ridge Association Annual Meeting**  
**Trinitarian Congregational Church, Northfield MA**  
**August 4, 2012, 9:30AM**

In attendance: Alan and Janet Abel, Jeff and Katherine Broadhead, Ed and Bonnie Burdick, Pierre and Esty Collet, Doug and Margie Conner, Doug Denise, Betty DiFrancesco, Hiro and Cena Dwyer, Dottie Foster, Elaine Harned, Julie Hawkens, Adrienne Hawkinson, Marsha Heydenreich, Phil and Lucy Livingston, Charlotte, Roy and Chris Martin, Dave and Lucia Powell, Pam Read, Sue Ross, Martha Schoonover, Warren and Mary Snyder, Norman Stanhope, Ann Stearns, Dona and Susie Thomas, D.J. and Leslie Townsend, Joanna Faraby Walker, Dick and Lillian Young, Bob, Carol, and Lynzi Ziegenhagen

1. Call to Order – Joanna Faraby Walker
2. Invocation – Rev. Norman Stanhope
3. Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting
  - a. Carol Ziegenhagen asked for any corrections or deletions. There were none. The minutes will be filed as originally recorded.
4. Reports and Activities
  - a. President's Report – Carol Ziegenhagen
    - i. Spoke about the rusticridge.org website and about how all of the minutes from our annual meetings since 1920 have been uploaded. The next project is adding photos of all of the members of the Ridge Association. Also talked about how the Rustic Ridge Facebook page has 62 members and encouraged more people to become involved on the Facebook page.
    - ii. Margie and Doug Conner are collecting canned food and other nonperishable items to donate. Anyone who wants to help should contact them. Reminded us that 10% of our annual dues are donated to charity.
    - iii. Thanked everyone for keeping up with their cottages. Said that there are still a few cottages in disrepair, and a few up for sale. There are two open houses this afternoon. Encouraged everyone to come look at the cottages and think about someone who might like to buy one. Carol would love for

people from the Ridge family to buy cottages that are for sale in order to keep our community the way we want it to be.

iv. The Annual Picnic is tonight at 6:30pm, and the Annual Church Service is tomorrow morning.

v. The dues are still \$100. The Association is able to keep them at this level because of regular additional donations. Please keep this up.

b. Appreciation for Lucia Powell's service as Treasurer – Bob Ziegenhagen

i. Lucia became Treasurer in 1991. She has kept meticulously accurate records, performed the “thankless job” of collecting dues, and done it all with “the sweetest smile” and great spirit. Lucia was given a gift of Northfield Mount Hermon coasters, and was given a standing ovation by the membership.

c. Treasurer's Report – Lucia Powell

i. Passed on her little green piggy bank with a penny for each year of her service to the new Treasurer, Carol Ziegenhagen.

ii. Went through the budget line-by-line and gave explanation and/or commentary for some of them.

iii. Thanked everyone who has donated to the Reserve Fund.

iv. Postage expense has steadily gone down every year thanks to email and the Internet. Encouraged anyone who is not online to let the Board know so that they can receive communications in other formats.

v. Encouraged anyone who wants to come pull a couple of weeds in the flower garden to do so.

vi. Directors and Officers insurance is a big line item for the Ridge Association.

vii. The balances on the budget match the balances in the bank.

- viii. Encouraged the younger generations to become active as Associate Members, and to come to meetings and speak up.
  - ix. Budget was approved without issue. Lucia said, “goodbye!”
- d. Roads Report – Alan Abel
- i. Briefly sketched out the roads for which the Ridge Association is responsible.
  - ii. Last fall:
    - 1. Steve Wiggin and crew swept and blew off the roads after all of the leaves had fallen. Culvert and ditches were inspected and cleared if necessary.
    - 2. Black top was applied at the corners of Spring and Health Roads, Pine and Ledge Roads, and Mountain Road and Wood Way. Black top was also layered at the top of the Willows, East Lane from Ledge Road for 127 feet, and at the bottom of the Willows for 72 feet.
  - iii. This summer:
    - 1. Ed Shearer and sons trimmed the sides of the roads north of Ledge Road; Steve Severance did it south of Ledge Road.
    - 2. In late fall, after the leaves have fallen, Steve Wiggin will sweep and blow off the roads.
    - 3. Alan and Bob Ziegenhagen will inspect the 19 culverts and have Steve Severance clear any that need it.

iv. Repairs needed:

1. Black top is needed near the bottom of Ledge Road for 43 feet where a culvert has settled (10 years old) and made dips in the road.
2. Paying is needed over a raised culvert on Wood Way for 10 feet to ease a nasty speed bump.
3. Paving for 60 feet on Oak Terrace should solve the constant eroding of trap rock gravel which has been replaced numerous times.

v. Planned improvements:

1. Black top will be applied for 109 feet on East Lane to complete that road with macadam. We believe that there is \$5,400 available to cover these expenses.

vi. Long term wish list:

1. Black top for 340 feet on Wood Way; 645 feet on Pine Road; 207 feet on Heath Road; and 175 feet near the bottom of the Willows. The estimated cost for this is near \$25,000. Please keep your contributions to the reserve fund rolling in!

- vii. Marsha Heydenreich asked about the fire lane. Jeff Broadhead, as well as a few others, chimed in to say that they thought that the fire lane had been impassable for "20 years." Alan Abel said that was one of the things that he has asked Steve Wiggin about, but Steve has not come back with an estimate yet. Alan said that he will press him on this issue. Carol suggested that Marsha speak with the fire department and ask them for their opinion/advice and then come back to the Board with a proposal.

e. Ridge Association Contributions for 2011 – Lucia Powell

- i. Ed Orcutt and Family – to help with the medical expenses for their son, John, who was in an accident (\$250)
  - ii. Dickinson Memorial Library (\$200)
  - iii. Northfield Senior Center (\$200)
- f. Memoriam – Elaine Harned
  - i. During the past year, Sue Crain Sonoski and Tim Whitney were called to their eternal rest. As is our Ridge custom, a book is being ordered in memory of each of them for the Dickinson Memorial Library.
  - ii. Do stop by the library and look at the impressive collection of Rustic Ridge memorial books. Librarian Deb Kern is extremely helpful in advising us on appropriate titles, and the books circulate widely. A list of titles can be found on the Ridge website and at the library.
  - iii. In the event of a death of one of our Members, please notify Elaine and send along an obituary to Bob Ziegenhagen to post on our website.
  - iv. A moment of silence was observed for all the Rustic Ridge friends who are no longer with us.
- g. Sign Committee – Lucy Livingston
  - i. Just yesterday, Lucy and Phil hung the new metal “North Lane” sign which she hopes will be an improvement in visibility and signage.
  - ii. Next year, there will be a few more of these new signs, including Cliff Road.
  - iii. Lucy put on Adrienne Hawkinson’s lobster apron and thanked everyone who contributed labor to make the Lobster Fest a big success this year. She noted that it took many people to do the job that Adrienne used to do mostly by herself.

- iv. Thanks to “math tutorials and the reduced cost of lobster this year” the Lobster Fest actually cleared a \$92 profit which was donated back to the Ridge Association.
- h. Guided Tour of Northfield Mount Hermon Forest – Dick Young
  - i. Explained the location of the Young Cottage so that people can understand why they are particularly concerned with what happens to the forest behind the cottages. Told a story about Lillian waking up one morning after having a nightmare that she looked out the back window of their cottage to see a McDonalds being built.
  - ii. The Youngs met NMH’s forester, Mike Mauri, when they saw him walking around, putting ribbons on trees. They approached him and introduced themselves. Dick then contacted Lee Youngblood, the head of the Mount Grace Conservation Trust, who said that there could be no one better than Mike to do the work.
  - iii. Dick believes the logging is being done in a responsible way that will lead to new growth, and that even though it doesn’t look beautiful now, it will look better again soon.
  - iv. He spoke about the walk a few Ridge Association members took with Mike last year in the pouring rain, and how there was a very small turnout. This year, beautiful weather helped there to be about 35 participants, and they had a really nice walk, the highlight of which was walking up to Garnet Rock and seeing that Mike has cleared it so that there is now a beautiful view again. He did this based upon what the small group, including Sue Ross, told him last year about how Garnet Rock is a place that’s important to the Ridge Community. It was a gesture of friendship,

and many seemed to really appreciate it. If more people want to go check it out, Dick will lead a group of at least five people.

5. New Business

i. Nominating Committee Report – Charlotte

1. The new board was approved without objection or comment. It is as follows:

President – Doug Denise  
Vice President – Lucy Livingston  
Treasurer – Carol Ziegenhagen  
Clerk – Joanna Faraby Walker  
Assistant Clerk – Bob Ziegenhagen  
Marsha Heydenreich – Class of 2013  
Ann Stearns – Class of 2013  
Janet Abel – Class of 2014  
John Powell – Class of 2014  
Roy Martin – Class of 2015  
Mary Snyder – Class of 2015

6. Speaker – Town Representative Sue Ross

- i. She always donates the \$100 check that she receives from the Ridge Association for serving as the Town Representative. This year, she's donating it to the Northfield Trails Association toward signs for the trails around the Ridge.
- ii. Many homes on the Rustic Ridge were included in the historical inventory of East Northfield. The woman who was hired to do the work was very excited that so many homes have been passed down through the generations, and that those owners possess primary source material about who owned our homes around the time of Moody. More research about Moody's time is likely to be done due to the transfer of the campus. This does not mean that our houses are going to be on the National Historic Register, but it does mean that it lays the groundwork for

protecting our homes into the future because of their historical significance.

- iii. The Northfield Select Board was forced by townspeople to ask MA state legislators for money to analyze whether or not it's really feasible to turn Schell Bridge into a hiking and biking park, and the town just found out that they've received an earmark from the Commonwealth for this.
- iv. A big issue in town this year was whether or not to destroy the "Beehive" - a house from the 1700s - in order to create a new emergency center in town. The town decided by a wide margin that this project would be too expensive for a town as small as Northfield.
- v. The Town of Northfield owns a lot of property that borders the Turners Falls pond, and this may lead to opportunities to request money for recreational assets (i.e. boat ramps, access to the Connecticut River).
- vi. Old Northfield Mount Hermon campus:
  1. Northfield had been really excited about the idea of C.S. Lewis College on the old NMH campus, and was really disappointed when that project fell through due to lack of funds. Northfield had started to think of itself of a college town, and to think about the possibilities inherent in that.
  2. When it became clear that C.S. Lewis College was not going to work out, the Green Family hired Jerry Pattengale of Indian Wesleyan University to find other possible suitable owners. About 30 toured the campus, those were narrowed down to about 10, and then, after some vetting of the groups' financials, narrowed it down even further to only about two organizations.



3. When Liberty University was proposed as a possible owner, there was quite a backlash, and Sue believes that Jerry decided that Liberty was not a good fit for Northfield, which is part of one of the, “most liberal, progressive valleys in the country.” There were several contentious town meetings about all of this.
4. Sue provided a list of the attributes that she believes many people in town have decided are important to them in a new owner. This list included: maintaining a peaceful, quiet community; valuing a collaborative relationship with the Town of Northfield; practicing inclusive Christianity; financially able to utilize and maintain the campus and all its buildings, and enriching the lives of Town residents by providing opportunities.

7. Other New Business (Do we want to post this stuff online?)

- I. The young man who owns the cottage on Woodruff Way is causing a lot of pain. He and his friends drink most nights and make lots of noise and keep Cena and Hiro Dwyer, as well as other neighbors, awake. We all need to be concerned about this, because this could happen to any of us. We are a fragile community.
- II. The Northfield Police are off-duty at 2am. Then the State Police take over, and they are in Shelburne Falls, about 40 minutes away. You can call them and they come, but the police can't do anything unless they catch the boys in the act (i.e. holding a beer can) in order to establish probable cause, which would allow them to enter the home. Cena would like the Board to discuss ways to

let the Northfield Police know how much we appreciate their repeated help, perhaps by giving them a donation.

- III. Bob said that this is a very difficult situation, but he really believes that if the concerned parties just stay the course (calling the police whenever there's a disturbance), that the boys will eventually mess up and do something that will actually cause them to be arrested. He thinks this would change the whole game and that the police are more than willing to do it. They just need to catch them breaking the law.
- IV. Sue Ross said that this might be something to bring up with the Northfield Select Board.
- V. Phil Livingston suggested hiring a detective to take photos of the guys breaking the law in order to establish probable cause. He said that it's important that the Ridge Association take a more proactive stance, and not leave this problem on the shoulders of the immediate neighbors.
- VI. Jeff Broadhead suggested keeping the roads less well-maintained so that people can't use them year-round so easily.
- VII. Adrienne Hawkinson suggested filing a class action suit.
- VIII. Margie Conner said that those who abut the Meadows received a letter from Northfield Mount Hermon that the property is for sale. She's worried about this additional threat.
- IX. Carol introduced the new Board President, Doug Denise. Doug presented Carol with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her service. She received a standing ovation. Doug recounted his

history with the Ridge and said he felt humbled to be taking on this position.

- X. Janet Able encouraged everyone to come to Ridge Sunday and thank God for the Ridge