

Rustic Ridge Association Annual Meeting

Trinitarian Congregational Church, Northfield MA

August 2, 2014, 9:30 AM

1. Call to Order – Joanna Faraby Walker
2. Invocation – Kurt Nelson
 - a. Read the scripture that begins “Oh Bless The Lord My Soul.”
 - b. Gave special thanks to the board for their service.
 - c. Offered up a special prayer asking for an appropriate tenant for the former Northfield Mount Hermon campus.
3. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting – Doug Denise
 - a. Doug asked for any corrections or deletions. Steve Tower asked for the spelling of his last name to be corrected. Report filed as corrected
4. Introduction of New Members – Doug Denise
 - a. Rob and Linda Glover - They live on East Lane in Ed and Bonnie Burdick’s former cottage. Rob went to Mount Hermon, and Linda went to Northfield, and currently live in California.
5. Reports and Activities
 - a. President’s Report - Doug Denise
 - i. Doug requested that the President’s Letter, which is part of the packet each member received this morning, be filed as part of his President’s Report. No one objected. The letter will be filed as part of the minutes.
 - b. Treasurer’s Report – Carol Ziegenhagen
 - i. We did well collecting dues this year.
 - ii. Many members also contributed to the Reserve Fund.
 - iii. We were able to convince the Town of Northfield to reassess the 5-acre parcel of land as wetlands, and therefore not buildable. So, they refunded us \$687 for 2014. Our tax bill for that land going forward will be about \$60/year.
 - iv. In next year’s budget, we will put \$200 toward Youth Activities.
 - v. The Treasurer’s Report was approved as presented
 - c. Roads Report – Alan Abel
 - i. Alan ran through the priority repairs for the coming year and how much Steve Wiggins has quoted us for each of those repairs.
 - ii. One of the needed repairs was caused by a water company truck.
 1. Vin Catania expressed his opinion that the water company should pay for the damage they created, and that maybe we could

pressure them by saying that they are using easements that they don't have a right to. He asked Trish White to support his position.

2. Trish said that she isn't a property lawyer, but she wouldn't be so sure that they don't have the right to use those easements since it has been this way for so many years. Still, she thinks that it wouldn't hurt to ask them to fix it since it is a much smaller slice of their budget than it is of ours. She doesn't think that we should push it too hard though. The repair will only cost \$400, and it is not in any of our best interests to get on the bad side of the water company.
3. Doug said that the Executive Board will take this up as a priority at our meeting tomorrow.
- iii. Barbara Walker wanted to reiterate how concerned she is about the big hole on North Lane. She thinks it is very dangerous.
- iv. Colin Walker wanted to know when the guardrail on North Lane is going to be fixed.
- v. Alan said that he ran into Tommy Walker in town and was told that these projects are on the docket, but he doesn't know the exact timetable.
- vi. Joanna Walker said that, while it's good for the board to address these things so that the Rustic Ridge presents a united front, all Rustic Ridge property owners can make their own requests of the town. We're all taxpayers. Any of us can go to a meeting or write a letter. The people that work for the town are very part-time, and Joanna is the only board member that lives in the area. All of the other board members live out of town. We can all take action on this issue.d.

d. Common Land Study Report – Lucy Livingston

- i. NMH has approached the Trust for Public Land for potential purchase and conservation of the NMH forest and also the Grandin Reservoir with its watershed. The forest and the watershed will be handled separately but both have to be transferred as part of the same agreement. The Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation has expressed interest in purchasing the forest and maintaining the conservation restriction. TPL has applied for a grant to aid in the property purchase. The East Northfield Water

Company that serves 270 full time residents and 63 seasonal customers was considered a good quality well managed water supply when assessed by a private firm, Weston and Sampson, but the Northfield Water District that uses wells did not want to take over the facility. Efforts are underway to find a private water company to purchase the water company.

e. Memoriam – Elaine Harned

- i. No members of our summer community died during this past year, and we are thankful for that.
- ii. We do miss Jack Powell, brother of Dave Powell, who lived in Northfield and was a long-time friend of the Rustic Ridge.
- iii. We observed a moment of silence for all the members of our community that have passed away.
- iv. Elaine reminded everyone about the memorial book collection at the Dickinson Library

f. Sign Committee – Lucy Livingston

- i. Made a signs for Robin and Linda Glover on East Lane; Telitha and Matt Lucier, Tom Hatch, Lisa and Rick Holden on Woodruff Way and Peg Clark and Frank Penny on Mountain Road
- ii. Will have two replacement “Entrance to Rustic Ridge” signs from Dave Powell’s original

g. Youth Activities Report – Catherine Broadhead

- i. She has organized some activities this summer. Kids have a chance to become a “Rustic Ridge Ranger” if they do most or all of the activities
- ii. She read the list of kids who have become a Rustic Ridge Ranger this summer

6. New Business

a. Nominating Committee Report – Charlotte Martin

- i. Charlotte ran through the Executive Board roster for the coming year (can be found on the agenda), and thanked the outgoing board members

b. Annual Dues Increase Discussion/Vote

- b. Kevin Belmonte, biographer of D.L. Moody, will be speaking at the church service tomorrow morning. Dave Powell wrote the foreward for the biography. If you would like to purchase a hard copy of the biography, please see Dave.
 - c. Annual Picnic today at 6:30pm
 - i. You will be able to buy polo shirts and bumper stickers with the new Rustic Ridge logo on it at the picnic.
 - d. Ridge Sunday Trinitarian Congregational Church service tomorrow at 10:00am (Choir will meet at 9:00am)
8. Welcome New President – Doug Denise
- a. Lucy gave many thanks to Doug for his leadership, dedication and humor. He energized the Ridge and kept the Board working through the year with conference calls, one of his many innovations. In appreciation of his service Doug will receive a signed copy of the historical society book *Town of Northfield*.
9. Meeting adjourned