

Rustic Ridge Association Annual Meeting

August 1, 2009
Moore Cottage
Northfield, Massachusetts

Adrienne Hawninson, President of the Rustic Ridge Association, Inc. called the meeting to order at 9:45AM. Mary Snyder, Clerk, stated the Call to Meeting and noted that one vote per cottage was allowed. Associate members do not vote. The invocation was given by David Harned. The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were approved .

REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

- Jenny Tufts - Representing Greater Northfield Watershed Association and the Schell Bridge Association gave an update on the work of these groups, especially Schell Bridge. She stated that the rural communities that thrive are the ones that invest in their infrastructure. Past decisions in Northfield have hurt and eroded community. She asked for financial support to preserve Schell Bridge. \$60,000.00 is needed to do begin studies on the work needed.
- President's Report: Annoyances: 1. free range birds - she will ask the owners to pen them while residents are here. 2. Noise - work being done - suggestion meet with neighbor to let them know what is being done . 3. 20 Woodruff Way - initial approval has been given by the town to "build" a driveway. It is hoped that a meeting with the conservation board will address some of the concerns of the Ridge. Discussion at board meeting to follow. otherwise, this has bee a good year.
- Auditor: Warren Snyder reported that the books are accurate and in good order.
- Treasurer: Lucia Powell presented the treasurer's report for 2008-2009. A good year!
- Community Contributions: Lucia Powell announced that the 2007-2008 contribution was made to the Katy's Kitchen and the Fire Department.
- Memorials: Elaine Harned led the group in a moment of silence to remember the following members and friends who have died since August 2008: LeRoy Martin A memorial book will be chosen and placed in the Dickinson Memorial Library in his memory.
- Signs: Lucy Livingston reported that they have had nothing to do - Ah, the recession!
- Trash: Warren Snyder gave reminders concerning the use of yellow bags, what can be placed in them and what should not. He gave information on the dump - getting stickers and times of operation. He addressed recycling issues. Bottom line, use common sense.

- Roads: Bob Ziegenhagen reported - most roads are private and must be maintained by the association. This involves road surface work and general maintenance. We will be contracting to have all this work done as the volunteer crew is aging. Alan Abel reported - Northfield fire company opened several culverts that were blocked. We will add additional culverts and do additional work as needed to address water issues. Resurfacing the roads in an ongoing process. Applause!!
- Ridge Representative: Sue Ross reported that the town continues to have financial challenges, falling short in some of the basic services. The Community Preservation attempt to gain a tax surcharge of 3% to fund projects was approved in November, but repealed to .5% in May. There will be continued attempts at overrides to help with funding. Thanks was expressed to David Powell for campus tour yesterday (Rhodes Fine Arts).
- Campus property update: David Powell reported that there are no offers on the campus - there are still interested parties. No summer activities due to hoped for sale. There will be music camp - sponsored by Jonas Brothers, under the direction of Donna Luther. Tennis court maintenance no longer done by school. It now requires volunteer work. We also need a sign to require flat soled shoes and to brush following use. Revell and Green Pastures will be vacated soon - no school activity left on Northfield campus. Appreciation to MNH for use of facilities. Hope that next year there will be a new "owner". Round Top, Birthplace, and Homestead not included in sale. Fate of pool and golf course is unknown.

NEW BUSINESS

- New Budget: Add additional funds for roads - to be discussed at board meeting. We are holding our own. Motion moved, seconded, and accepted.
- Nominations: Charlotte Martin was pleased to present the report of the nominating committee. Moved, seconded, and accepted. President: Adrienne Hawkinson Vice President: Carol Ziegenhagen Clerk: Joanna Walker Treasurer: Lucia Powell Directors Class of 2010: Elaine Harned, Katie Young Directors Class of 2011: Margie Conner, Lucy Livingston Directors Class of 2012: Douglas Denise, Bob Ziegenhagen
- Beautification (formerly derelict houses): Carol Ziegenhagen reported that there are 78 cottages - 85% seem to be in use. Many show signs of improvement. Four cottages are in very poor condition. 1. 47 Woodruff Way (Jacobs) - has been bought by Wendy and Vin - will tear down August 7th. 2. 12 Wood Way (Wills - Babos) - negotiations for purchase by the Nelson's. 3. 2 Wood Way Kritchko indicates that he will hire work to be done - time will tell. 4. Evergreen cottage, 20 Woodruff Way - not fixing at present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Church - Trinitarian 10 AM with Ridge choir.
- Web site - see for information - give Ziggy information for updates.
- Dave Powell suggested that additional information for cottage histories also be given to Ziggy. Adrienne presented him with a ream of paper in recognition of his work.

- Janet Abel reported the death of Shirley Voorhies.
- Adrienne made a presentation to Alan Abel, the “John Phillip Sousa” award for all his work.
- Adrienne acknowledged the 50th anniversary of Dick and Lillian Young (Aug 22)
- The Ridge picnic will be held today at 5:30 PM at the golf pavilion.
- Meeting Adjourned 11:30 AM

Mary Snyder - Clerk