

**Rustic Ridge Association
Annual Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, August 1, 2020, 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. ET
Zoom Teleconferenced Meeting

Call to Order – Bob Ziegenhagen, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. 47 people logged in during the meeting.

Invocation – Kurt Nelson opened with prayer, addressing the challenges of Covid-19 and urging us to sustain the community and sense of hope in Rustic Ridge even though we are physically separated.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved.

President's Report – Margie Conner, President, commented on the warm weather and relative isolation here on the Ridge. Social contacts have been less frequent and less physical but nevertheless as heartwarming as usual. The board has had three Board Meetings this year, two on Zoom which worked particularly well.

- A committee was formed to study a more secure archive for Ridge documents.
- Donations were made to the Northfield Food Pantry (\$500) and the Library's after school program (\$500).
- Mark Given (Seasonal Cottage Watch) reported little overall damage to the Ridge this year. Mark inspects all cottages weekly during the off-season. He suggested that owners do not cover their windows with opaque materials as it blocks his view inside.

Treasurer's Report – Doug Denise, Treasurer, reported that our cash position is strong, with \$28,307 on hand at the end of 2019-2020, slightly ahead of year ago. In the year just completed, expenses (\$9,579), were significantly ahead of a year ago due primarily to the deferment of road repairs from 2019 into 2020. Though revenues (\$10,458) were less and expenses were more this past year, we still had more revenue than expense. Doug reported that he had updated our information and status with the IRS, an unexpectedly complicated and time-consuming process.

For 2020-2021, income is expected to be closer to historical levels (\$12,608) with expenses coming in slightly below that (\$11,148). Roads will again be our major expense. Social Events expenses in the coming year are expected to be closer to the \$450 budgeted (same as 2019-2020 budget) as we expect to hold more social activities in the coming - post pandemic - year.

The Board was asked to establish a way to pay dues electronically and Doug agreed to look into it

Auditor Report – Warren Snyder reported that he found the Financial accounts for 2019-2020 to be complete and in order. President Margie Conner announced that Warren is stepping down from his position and she thanked him sincerely for his many years of service.

Roads Report – Lucy Livingston, MD of Roads, reported several scheduled projects were completed this year, while others were delayed. Highlights:

- Regraded Pine Road to divert water away from the Sherburnes front door.
- Trimmed the roadside and swept the roads more than usual due to excessive, cumulative incursion by vegetation.
- The Swale at the corner of Ledge and East Lane was excavated as it was buried in silt.
- The safety of smoothing West Lane by trimming uplifting tree roots was reviewed with an Arborist (Brad Bordweick). We were cautioned not to trim the tree roots until the trees themselves were taken down. The arborist thought some of the trees were in a dangerous state so removal in the nearer term was advised. The Board will contact the property owners involved.
- Seth Wiggin of Wiggin Hydroseed Landscaping intends to repair portions of North Lane in 2020 and Woodruff Way at an unspecified date.
- Lucy asked that cottage owners ask vendors to use light weight trucks when making deliveries to our cottages. Trucks should also use town roads whenever possible. We are considering adding signs limiting truck weights.
- \$5,200 was proposed for Roads next year. Key projects: repairing upper and lower Willows (\$2,500) and routine trimming (\$1,300). \$1,000 was left for unanticipated repairs and \$400 for routine culvert maintenance.

Activities Report – Jean Bubriski and Barbara Walker reported they had many activities planned for 2020 but they were not implemented due to the Covid-19. Catherine Broadhead was thanked for creating her list of activities for next year. We look forward to resuming a full slate of activities in 2021 and look for more volunteers to help implement them.

Memorials - Leesa Campbell spoke for all of us when she said that we deeply miss Alan Abel who died from Covid-19 on April 25, 2020. Alan's daughter, Maryann Chenowith said the family has selected Jill Lepore's book "These Truths" for Alan's memorial at the Library. She also mentioned a donation site at Temple University for percussion scholarships. A link to the donation site is on Alan's "In Memorium" web page in RusticRidge.org. Alan is interred at Pentecost cemetery.

Town Report - Heather Tower, Town-Ridge Liaison reported on developments in Northfield over the past year. Highlights:

- Thomas Aquinas has opened two classes of 50 students this year.
- A tentative Schell Bridge design was selected, and some modifications ensued, based on town comments. Currently, they are looking at designs for a park at both entrances of the bridge.
- Several excellent businesses are active during the epidemic and continue to enrich the Town, including Cameron's Winery, the Northfield Mart and Mims.
- The Northfield Trails Association has been keeping up the trails, which have been particularly popular during the Covid-19 shutdown.
- Thursday Road Races are continuing with an honor system for reporting times.

- The Senior Center has online programs through the Senior Learning Center.
- NextDoor.com serves as an unofficial community bulletin board

Board Officers

- Retiring Board Members –Lillian Young and Anne Yarnall were thanked for their service.
- Election of Officers & Directors – Martha Schoonover, representing the Nominating Committee proposed the following slate which was approved by the Association.

President	Leesa Campbell
Vice President	Barbara Walker
Immediate Past President	Margie Conner
Treasurer	Doug Denise
Clerk	Bob Ziegenhagen
Directors, (Class of 2021)	Doug Southard and Lisa White
Directors, (Class of 2022)	Linda Glover and Lindsey Lack
Directors, (Class of 2023)	Pamela Read and Phil Livingston

Water Company Rate Hike – Margie Conner, Jeff Chandler and Pam Read worked hard to prepare and present an appeal the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to lower the East Northfield Water Company fee increases. Unfortunately, the appeal was not granted.

Web Site – Bob Ziegenhagen demonstrated key aspects of the RusticRidge.org website and asked members to send him corrections to the Address list which was sent to all members.

Other New Business

- Dick Young asked for Board assistance in working with the State to demark the path to Garnet Rock. The Board will discuss in their upcoming 4PM meeting.
- Jeff Broadhead questioned whether the Board has the authority to issue last year's diversity Statement and a lively discussion ensued. It was resolved that the Board would address the issue in the upcoming board meeting.

Adjourn – We adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Submitted Bob Ziegenhagen, Clerk