

# **Rustic Ridge Association 2015 Annual Meeting**

Trinitarian Congregational Church, Northfield MA  
August 1, 2015, 9:30AM

1. Call to Order – Joanna Faraby Walker
2. Invocation – Dennis Campbell
3. Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting
  - a. Lucy Livingston asked for any corrections or deletions. Hearing none, the minutes were approved and will be filed.
4. Reports and Activities
  - a. President's Report – Lucy Livingston
    - i. Lucy talked about the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline, and how Northfield doesn't want it, and neither does Dracut, the final destination. The pipeline project would include a compressor station in Northfield that would have environmental impacts: noise, venting, and bright lights all the time.
    - ii. The Northfield Forest will be transferred to the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. The East Northfield Water Company is going to be taken over by Valley Water Systems of CT. Part of this deal is that hiking trails will be included. Hopefully, the trailheads will be located somewhere other than the Rustic Ridge, perhaps on Birnam Road across the road from the golf course.
    - iii. Lucy gave a brief summation of what Emmitt Mitchell from the National Christian Foundation told the board about the search for a new owner for the Northfield campus: the search has been expanded to international and for-profit organizations, but they still intend to keep the heritage of the place in mind while doing their search.
    - iv. New Ridge residents:
      1. Kitty Schacht and Doug Southard have purchased the green cottage at 5 Mountain Road.

2. Rob and Linda Glover have purchased the cottage adjacent to the cottage they already owned for family and friends to stay in when they visit.
3. A woman bought the cottage she was renting.
- v. No fireworks, open fires or unleashed, unsupervised dogs are allowed on the Ridge.
- vi. Lucy talked about the importance of summer residents finding common ground with year-round residents. One place where we definitely have common ground is roads and trees. On that front:
  1. Tree man Brad Clark has offered a group discount if he can get 10 large trees that need a crane. He is willing to take down large pine trees for \$1,000 each if he is able to get 10 trees. Insurance needs to be confirmed.
  2. Vin Catania spoke to NMH. They may be willing to take down dangerous trees that are on the border of the Northfield Forest. Contact person at NMH: Rick Couture.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report – Carol Ziegenhagen

- a. We did well with collecting dues this year.
- b. We also collected \$3,095 in additional donations.
- c. Road repairs are our largest line item every year.
- d. Steve Severance has been given a \$10/week raise for picking up trash and recycling, so he's now earning \$90/week.
- e. Warren Snyder audited our FY15 books and found everything to be in order.
- f. The Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report were approved as presented.

#### 6. Roads Report – Alan Abel

- a. Lucy gave Alan a lovely introduction that honored his 17 years of service as head of the Roads Committee.
- b. Someone asked about the status of the new guardrail on North Lane.
  - i. Alan hasn't spoken to Tommy Walker, but has heard through the grapevine that it will happen soon.

#### 7. Memorials and Births – Lisa Campbell

- a. Elaine Harned is not able to be here this summer for the first time in probably 70 years. We look forward to her return.

8. Youth Activities Committee Report – Catherine Broadhead

- a. Please join the closed Facebook group if you want to be involved.
- b. Several children have earned Rustic Ridge Ranger status. Several more are working on it.

9. Town Representative Report – Phil Livingston on behalf of Steve Tower who cannot be here because he is recuperating from major surgery. He emailed his report to Lucy the night before his surgery.

- a. Business environment in Northfield
  - i. Northfield lost three businesses this year: Dahlia Bird Gifts, Northfield Coffee and Books, and Fairview Gardens.

10. New Business

- a. Changes to the board – Charlotte Martin, head of the Nominating Committee
  - i. Mary Snyder and Roy Martin are rotating off the board this year.
  - ii. Charlotte announced the two nominated board members: Tim Powell and Alex White.
    - 1. The membership voted to confirm these new board members.
- b. New Associate Members – Carol Ziegenhagen
  - i. Deidre and Brian Taylor, Bob Ziegenhagen's niece and her husband, were nominated.
    - 1. The membership voted to accept these new Associate Members.

11. Announcements –

- a. There is an open house on the Ridge from 11:00am-1:00pm today
- b. The annual picnic is at the pool tonight at 6:30pm. If it rains, the rain location is the basement of the church.
- c. Margie Connor asked everyone to bring non-perishable food items to the church service tomorrow morning to help feed hungry local children through the “Fill the Belly Bus” initiative.
  - i. If you can't bring food tomorrow, you can write a check for the cause to the church.
  - ii. Dave Powell added that you can bring food to the church M-Th of this coming week as well.