

Rustic Ridge Association Board Meeting

Minutes for August 4, 2018

President Margie Conner called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM at the Schoonover cottage, 14 Linden Avenue. In attendance were Lucy Livingston (part time for Roads report), Leesa Campbell, Carolee and Bob Ziegenhagen, Margie Conner, Barbara Walker, Douglas Southard, Bill Young, Lillian Hann Young and Martha Schoonover. Attendees introduced themselves to start the meeting.

Previous Minutes - The minutes from the July 17 meeting were approved.

Annual Charitable Donation - Board voted to give \$450 to both the Food Pantry and the Northfield elementary school for their Lunch program. Margie will follow up with the school to reemphasize that the funds should go to the food budget.

Roads - Lucy Hann Livingston suggested road work that might be needed in the coming year. The Board focused on:

- Repair the top of Willows where it meets Woodruff
- Eliminate standing water on Wood Way.
- Smooth out the root bumps on West way
- Continue annual maintenance including sweeping the roads, clearing culverts, cutting back branches and mowing the sides of roads.
- Investigate a potentially problematic bump in the road where Pine Road and North lanes meet.
- Lucy will contact Tom Walker (Superintendent of Streets & Building Maintenance) concerning repairs at the top of North Lane and the corner of Carleton and Linden.

Lucy will cost out these items for 2018-19 and present for consideration at the Fall board meeting.

Northfield Water - Martha reported on her talk with Lynne Raymer of the East Northfield Water Company concerning high water bills. Ms. Raymer said the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities approved a service charge as well as a usage charge for East Northfield Water customers. The service charge is common for all customers. Because Rustic Ridge water is not metered at individual cottages, our total consumption is divided evenly and all connected cottages get the same fee. We get only one charge a year as we are seasonal whereas year-round town residents get two a year. Board members agreed that we should explain this price structure to members in an upcoming Presidents letter.

Annual Meeting Date – The Board recognized that schools are restarting earlier than in previous years and that in the future this might prevent some young parents from attending an

early August Annual Meeting. For the foreseeable future, though, the board opted to keep the current date, the first weekend in August.

Dissemination of Information Policy – The Board confirmed our current policy of not giving our mailing list to outsiders. The Board also considered how we should interact with town and campus-based organizations that have values, policies and activities that some of our members might not be comfortable with. We acknowledged that this might be an increasing problem in the future as more organizations come to Northfield and as they seek to engage our members in their events. After a productive discussion, we agreed we first needed to create a statement of our values as a community, particularly concerning diversity. Following that we would propose specific guidelines on how we might manage coordination and cooperation with various groups. Bill Young and Douglas Southard will prepare a draft statement and point of view for the Board's consideration for the Fall meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Submitted 8/6/2018 by Bob Ziegenhagen, Clerk