

Rustic Ridge Association Board Meeting
Conference call on April 5, 2016 at 7:00pm

Participating: Lucy Livingston, Martha Schoonover, Doug Denise, Joanna Walker, Alex White, Catherine Broadhead, Tim Powell, Bob & Carol Ziegenhagen, Leslie Kritchko

1. Minutes from August 1, 2015 were approved as distributed. Bob will post on the website.
2. Treasurer's Report – Carol
 - a. 51 Members have paid their \$150 dues; 9 have not.
 - b. 28 Associate Members have paid their \$40 dues.
 - c. We have \$2,400 in the Reserve Fund.
 - d. We have already spent \$5,900 on roads, and \$300 on trimming and clearing during FY16.
 - i. Bob added that the roads look pretty good. Culverts may need to be cleaned out.
 - e. We will end up in the black for FY16 as long as things continue to go as expected.
 - f. Doug asked about the state of the money market account that holds the 5 Acre Property funds
 - i. Carol said there is \$563 in that account.
 1. Taxes on the land are currently about \$64/year. So, these funds can pay the taxes for about 8 more years.
 2. Alternately, we could decide to use it to help fund the invasive species work.
3. Winter Security Report
 - a. Mark Given, our Security Representative, went around the Ridge 5 or 6 times during the winter, including after every storm. Things look OK. It could have been worse if so much tree work hadn't been done last year.
4. Town Representative
 - a. Steve Tower, who served as our Town Representative, died of melanoma in January. There will be a memorial for him on Saturday, May 14.
 - i. Lucy said that she will plan to go to the memorial, If anyone else can go too, it would be appreciated.
 - b. Who will be our Town Representative now?
 - i. Perhaps Steve's wife, Heather Tower? She would be our first choice, if willing.
 - ii. If not Heather Tower, perhaps Joan Stoia, co-owner of Centennial House, who is heading up Northfield business revitalization efforts.
5. Planning for the summer
 - a. The Northfield Pool opens Saturday, June 11. Lucy will forward pool membership info.
 - b. The Lobster Fest is on Saturday, July 2.
 - c. The 4th of July parade will happen again this year.
 - d. The Annual Meeting is on Saturday, August 6.

- e. Ridge Sunday at the Trinitarian Congregational Church is on Sunday, August 7.
 - i. Who will be the speaker for Ridge Sunday?
 - 1. Marsha or Jonathan Heydenreich?
 - 2. Dennis Campbell?
- f. Committee Reports
 - i. Northfield Campus Committee report from Doug
 - 1. Doug recently spoke with Emmitt Mitchell, and is “cautiously optimistic,” but couldn’t say more than that.
 - a. Tim confirmed that there is reason to be cautiously optimistic.
 - 2. Doug will stay in touch with Emmitt Mitchell.
 - ii. Youth Committee report from Catherine
 - 1. The Youth Committee is looking to organize activities for kids as they did last year. Some ideas:
 - a. Have a “Senior Rustic Ridge Ranger” or some other leadership position that kids who have already achieved Rustic Ridge Ranger status can work toward.
 - b. Interview a Rustic Ridge elder about their history on the Ridge.
 - c. Help out with work on the roads.
 - d. Ghost stories with Tim.
 - e. Hiking with Dick Young
 - 2. Catherine said that getting kids together is the first step. After that, they make their own plans.
 - iii. By-Laws Committee report from Martha
 - 1. The By-Laws Committee hasn’t met yet. When we do, some possible questions for discussion are:
 - a. Making it official that conference calls are an OK way to hold board meetings.
 - b. Making it clear what the official policy is on Associate Members holding office
 - c. Joanna brought up her parents’ concern about noisy tree work on Sundays and big weekends.
 - i. Marsha said that this would fall under rules, not by-laws, but is a valid concern that should be addressed.
 - 2. The By-Laws Committee will work on some suggested changes for a vote at the annual meeting.
 - iv. 5 Acre Property Committee report from Bob
 - 1. Invasive species have multiplied enormously
 - a. Bob has pulled out a lot of Barbary
 - b. There is something else that will need to be removed professionally.

- c. Bob discovered that there used to be an orchard on the property. Those trees were all covered in vines.
 - d. In order to remove invasive species, we have to obtain prior approval from the Northfield Conservation Commission.
 - i. There is a form that needs to be filled out. Bob will follow up.
 - v. Rustic Ridge Future Committee report from Lucy
 - 1. “The elephant in the room” is the inherent conflicts of interest between our traditional summer community and year-round residents. How do we move forward?
 - 2. Lucy has spoken to the Pennys, the Holdens, the Hatches, and Meredith Brouillette
 - a. Matt Lucier bought Bob Huber’s old house. Alex suggested that he might be a good liaison between summer resident and year-round residents.
 - 3. There are a couple of cottages for sale right now:
 - a. 24 Spring Lane. Listing agent: Christie Shea
 - b. 17 West Lane. Listing agent: Barb Knapp
 - c. Leslie suggested that the Rustic Ridge Association be listed on real estate sheets.
 - i. Fitzgerald Real Estate did a great job when selling Wendy and Vin’s green cottage.
 - d. Maybe we could create a brochure about the Rustic Ridge, including a link to our website, for realtors to have on hand.
 - e. Leslie said that she would do some research about realtors in the area.
- g. Update on proposed Kinder Morgan NED pipeline project
 - i. The NED pipeline has been “suspended” due to inadequate subscribed capacity.
 - ii. FERC approved the pipeline expansion through Otis State Forest. That decision is facing legal challenges, because it will mean cutting through protected land.
- h. Update on NMH Forest and East Northfield Water Company
 - i. The Trust for Public Land now has the financing in place to buy the NMH Forest and reservoir.
 - ii. Colonial Water will own the reservoir and dam
 - iii. Town of Northfield will own 300 acres surrounding
 - iv. DCR will own the remaining 1,300 acres
 - v. So, we will continue to have water!