



Rustic Ridge Association, Inc.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING-RUSTIC RIDGE ASSOCIATION
SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2004
20 PINE ROAD, NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS**

Present: Bob Caruthers, Marilyn Williams, Margaret Burdick, Ted Denise, Janet Abel and George Thomas. Those present constituted a quorum. The minutes of the July 5 meeting were approved by consensus, as was the Treasurer's report.

Bob Caruthers opened the meeting at 9:01 AM. He stated Sue Ross, the Ridge Representative, was unable to attend, but would make a report at the Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued concerning the decision of the NMH Trustees to sell or lease a major portion of the Northfield campus. Mrs. Ross is a member of the town's study group that met with Head of School Richard Mueller and one trustee. Bob Ziegenhagen is representing the Ridge on another committee. Bob Caruthers indicated the school was not being forthcoming to questions and ideas, despite claims of transparency. He arranged for Carol Lebo, Mr. Mueller's assistant, to speak at the Annual Meeting. Two outside consultants have been asked by NMH to prepare a prospectus for sale or lease of properties involved. Their report(s) will be presented at the November NMH Board meeting.

Concern was expressed about storage of the Association's records at Dolbin Library. **Marilyn Williams and Bonnie Burdick will investigate other storage possibilities, and sort and move said records.** Possible sites are the Dickinson Library and the Northfield Historical Society.

Janet Abel presented a report for the Road Committee, chaired by her husband. A work day was held Saturday July 24th on Cliff and Pine Roads, and another is scheduled for July 31st. The town's spreading gravel on Woodruff Way and North Lane was noted, and the suggestion made to contact the town about repaving the roads. The matter was referred to Alan Abel, who elected to table the idea until this Fall's repaving work was completed. The Board's consensus was that another contractor should be found since Billy Walker was not completing the work. The desirability of a Fall brush pickup was reaffirmed, along with recognition that individuals may and do make private arrangements for removal.

Historical District designation was discussed, based on research done by Adrienne Hawkinson. Although there were a number of questions, the only downside appeared to be the labor involved to complete the application. A decision was deferred, pending an in-person briefing by Adrienne.

As usual, the RRA will make donations to local institutions and/or groups, which will be chosen by the new Executive Board following the Annual Meeting.

There was discussion about terms of employment for Diedre Gilmore as the Ridge's Security Representative. The Board decided she could work for individuals if she fulfilled the requirements of her current duties. Her stipend was increased to \$200 for 2004-2005, and the consensus was that she was doing a good job.

Lucy Livingston, the Ridge's sign maker, will be asked to construct a sign for the north Ridge entrance.

By-law revision will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. Approval by a two-thirds majority is required for passage. Mrs. Williams was authorized to sell Northfield Historical Society calendars at the annual meeting.

On motion of Marilyn Williams, seconded by Mrs. Abel, the members of the Board unanimously approved the Ridge's website prepared by Mr. Ziegenhagen. Helpers for him were sought.

Bob Caruthers recognized the fine service of Janet Abel and Leslie Krichko who served as directors for the last three years. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie

Margaret M. Burdick, Assistant Clerk