

Rustic Ridge Association Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 31, 2013, 3pm

First Draft

In attendance: Janet Abel, Alan Abel, Doug Denise, Lucy Livingston (by phone), Roy Martin, John Powell (by phone), Mary Snyder, Ann Stearns, Joanna Faraby Walker, Bob Ziegenhagen, Carol Ziegenhagen

Not in attendance: Marsha Heydenreich

1. Welcome/Review Agenda - Doug
2. Minutes of Prior Board Meetings - Joanna
 - a. Joanna summarized verbally. Will email all 2012 minutes to all board members. Minutes were accepted pending email distribution.
3. Social Activities – Carol/Lucy
 - a. July 4th Parade – Featured a wonderful choir organized by Janet Abel. Honored Bob Huber. Dottie Foster wanted to specifically thank everyone who participated in raising money for Guatemala.
 - b. Lobster Fest was a big success. 81 people attended. Made enough money to give some money to the pool, tip the lifeguards, and still break even.
 - i. Doug mentioned how nice it is to hold it at the Northfield Pool. Asked how confident we are that we'll be able to continue to have the lobster fest there in future years.
 - ii. Carol thinks the pool may continue to be available, but Lucy thinks that we should look for other outdoor options just in case.
 - c. Annual Picnic will be at the Trinitarian Congregational Church.
 - i. Carol has paid the church for the space.
 - ii. Lucy is concerned about our access to the ovens at the church.
 1. Carol will look into this.
 - iii. Carol wanted to know if we should have a table decorating contest as in years past.
 1. The board agreed that we should continue the tradition even if we don't all participate.
 2. Carol will make sure there is some white elephant gift available as a prize.
 3. To publicize the table decorating contest, Carol and Bob will post something on the website, send out an email, and put something on the

bulletin board at the foot of the Ridge. Furthermore, all the board members should spread the word.

d. Treasurer's Report - Carol

i. Carol went through the Rustic Ridge budget line by line. We are in the black.

ii. Ridge Representative.

1. Sue Ross has resigned.

a. Joanna asked why.

i. It is known that she felt uncomfortable taking money for her services, and may have felt that her political standing in the town could be compromised by her official relationship with us.

2. The board voted to leave the Ridge Representative post vacant for the coming year (Bob moved: Roy seconded) We will revisit this in the future.

iii. Security

1. The Security position has been filled by Joe Chromey since Bob Huber stopped being able to do it, but we're not sure what Joe has been doing or if he wants to continue doing it.

2. Steve Severence could fill the position, but Steve doesn't use email. Maybe Bob Z. could be the middleman? Will revisit this on Saturday.

3. Send Bob Z. new names for handyman work: Pat Woods, Eric Boyd

iv. Roads Report – Alan Abel

1. Steve Wiggin made many improvements since last summer. Alan went through the list of these. Steve has not sent the Association an invoice for this yet.

2. High priority repairs going forward:

a. A patch on Heath Road that has eroded. (\$50)

b. Corner of Pine and Ledge (\$300)

c. Snowplowing damage on Wood Way (\$800) and Oak Terrace (\$2,075). Crown of the road has been shaved off by the snow blade because the crown is now at a higher level than where the treads of the vehicles indent the road. If we fix it, it should be OK for another few years. Alan asked if those homeowners who hire people to plow should be asked to contribute something toward these repairs?

- d. The Willows (\$300)
 - e. Another section of Pine Road (\$1,215)
 - f. Should be looked at more closely: Cliff Road in front of the Snyder cottage (\$600)
3. Bob and Carol are talking to the Fire Department about the lack of an emergency exit from the top two ridges in case of fire. It may be that this becomes a higher priority in the roads budget after more information is gathered.
- a. Mary suggested shifting the onus for providing a cleared fire lane onto the Fire Department.
4. Proposed budget for 2013-14 was approved (Mary moved: Janet seconded).
- v. Old Business
- 1. Five Acre Property
 - a. We were assessed a property tax bill from the town of Northfield this year due to a couple of factors (an unforwarded letter, lack of proper paperwork).
 - i. Doug, Joanna and Carol are working on getting the proper paperwork so that this will not happen again in the future.
 - b. Lucy wants to discuss the future of the property: how will it be used and maintained? Should we be trying to remove invasive species?
 - i. Bob has cleared a trail already.
 - ii. Janet suggested asking the homeowners on the other side of the property for their ideas and suggestions.
- vi. New Business
- 1. Subcommittees
 - a. Doug suggested convening a subcommittee to come up with policies to cover possible future property purchases and/or special projects that affect the entire Ridge community.
 - i. The board agreed that a good title would be the Common Land Study Committee.
 - ii. Lucy will head this up and bring some ideas with her to the Saturday afternoon board meeting.

- b. There will also be a Finance subcommittee that Carol will head up as Treasurer

2. Ridge Direction Forward

- i. Doug thinks that we could be doing more to proactively define ourselves (independently of Northfield's redefinition of itself) moving into the future. Asked the board to think about this and come back with suggestions.

3. Food Pantry/Survival Center Donation

- a. Margie Connor is requesting food donations (or toiletries, diapers, etc.) for the Northfield Food Pantry and the Turners Falls Survival Center. Donations can be brought to the annual meeting and picnic.

vii. Announcements

- a. The Nominating Committee has nominated new board members: Julie Hawkins and Catherine Broadhead
- b. All of the officers are on board for another year.
- c. The board reviewed Doug's agenda for the upcoming annual meeting and fine tuned it.