

October 6, 2015

Greetings!

The leaves are turning and the air is crisp. I hope many are enjoying the Ridge this fall. For those of you who are there over Columbus Day weekend, Bill Young has organized another "burger" night at the Crump and Fox Zeke's Grill on Saturday at 6:30 PM. It should be fun...and will be warm!

Fall is also the time for our annual dues and this year, as approved at the 2014 annual meeting, dues have increased to \$150 per cottage and \$40 for associate members. This is the first dues change in several years and the increased revenue will give us a balanced budget. Please also consider an additional donation so that we can build up a reserve fund in the future. Please complete the attached dues form to update our records and mail it with your payment to our treasurer, Carol Ziegenhagen, 3900 Divot Court, Longmont CO 80503 before October 30th.

There has been a great deal of activity on the Ridge. You will notice the new guardrail on North Lane. We are grateful that the Town got the work completed before the slippery winter months. A major area of Pine Road has been repaved and other road sections were repaired. Take a walk along the path on the five-acre property below the Ridge. Bob Ziegenhagen has cleared many of the invasive plants and vines in the wetlands and the views are lovely.

The Ridge was once a meadow but now we have towering pines. Several homeowners grouped together and contracted to clear at risk trees on their lots. You probably heard chain saws in late summer and fall, and there will be additional tree work in early spring. Let us know if you would like contact information for tree services. Hopefully by next year we will see more sun filtering through to the groundcover!

Work of a different type is also being done for the Ridge and Town over the next several months. In late September the Trust for Public Land met with the Northfield Open Space Committee to outline specific plans for long-term conservation of the NMH forest and reservoir. A private water company will purchase the reservoir and dam, the Town will hold the reservoir watershed area, and the remaining forest will be conveyed to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. All parcels will be protected with conservation restrictions.

Another issue, the northeast pipeline, continues to be actively debated so please check for updates on the websites:

<http://www.nofrackedgasinmass.org/the-proposed-pipeline>

http://www.kindermorgan.com/business/gas_pipelines/east/neenergydirect/

Now that you have reached the end of this letter, it is time to mail in your dues!!

Best wishes for a healthy happy year,

Lucy Livingston
President, Rustic Ridge Association