

ANNUAL MEETING RUSTIC RIDGE ASSOCIATION

August 6, 2005

Dolbin Library, Northfield-Mount Hermon School
Northfield, Massachusetts

Following the invocation by Warren Snyder, Robert Caruthers, President of the Rustic Ridge Association called to order the Annual Meeting at 9:40 AM. Margaret Burdick, Clerk, read the Call to Meeting and announced that a quorum was present. The minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting were approved as written. None of the new members were present.

REPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

President's Report – Mr. Caruthers stated that there was no specific news concerning the sale of the Northfield “campus” of the school. A road inventory had been made, and work was done after the 2004 season. By-laws have been further revised. There has been increased off-season use of the Ridge's private roads; the Board has sought legal advice. The Association has its own website. Mr. Caruthers expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board of Directors, and read the report of the auditor, Edward Burdick. The books of the Association were in order. Lucia Powell, Treasurer presented the financial report for 2004-2005. Alan Abel, co-chair Roads delineated the extensive work done in the fall of 2004 and that done by volunteers in 2005. He announced that another workday would be held Saturday, August 13, 2005. Poison Ivy had been sprayed and the layering of trap-rock was not successful – particularly in light of the two serious downpours which occurred earlier in the season. Future needs are paving of Wood Way, placement of rip-rap and structures to facilitate passage of water besides the roads. Margaret Connor said that Willow Way is very difficult to traverse and stated her appreciation for the hard work done by Mr. Abel and Robert Ziegenhagen, the other Roads Chair.

Signs - Lucy Livingston, Chair stated that once a site has been chosen, another major sign will be erected at the entrance to the north end of the Ridge and that many new, small signs have been posted to warn the public that it is traveling a private road at its own risk.

Memorials – Elaine Harned led the group in a moment of silence to remember Barbara Keating and Gordon Poole who had died since August of 2004.

Trash – Alan Snyder said that Northfield had changed hours at the Transfer station; therefore, Ridge cottagers needed to have trash at the roadside by noon on Saturdays. Steve Severance was awarded the contract for waste removal for the 2005 season. Up-to-date information was available concerning recycling and hours at the dump outside the auditorium. Mr. Snyder noted that the town may change to a per-bag fee system for disposal. A suggestion was made that should this occur before the 2006 season, bags could be purchased and distributed in advance.

Ridge Representative - Sue Ross reported that Northfield is increasingly healthy and progressive, assessments will be reviewed each year, real estate prices are rising, Massachusetts is providing less aid and concerns are surfacing about the use of the tracts of land the School wants to sell. She stated that Dickinson Library is flourishing as are the arts in Northfield. An open space planning group has been formed, and the Mt. Grace Land Conservancy had scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 11, 2005 at the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Mrs. Ross suggested

interested cottagers should make contact with the Town Selectmen, Jack Spanbauer, Bonnie L'Etoile and Chad Glover to seek information and express concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

After Mr. Caruthers thanked Dick Young for his valuable research and written explanation of the proposed by-law changes, he stated that the Association would purchase Director and Officer Insurance. On the motion of Patricia White, seconded by Mrs. Powell, the proposed, revised by-laws were adopted unanimously. Another unanimous motion was passed to thank the out-going members of the Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charlotte Martin, Nominating Chair presented the slate of officers for 2005-2006. It was President – Robert Ziegenhagen, Vice-President – Kurt Nelson, Treasurer – Lucia Powell and Clerk – Sherry Broadhead. The slate for the Board was Adrienne Hawkinson (Class of 2006), Elaine Harned (Class of 2007), Alan Abel (Class of 2008) and Chris Martin (Class of 2008). On motion of Mrs. Martin, seconded by Dave Powell, those present unanimously elected the slate as presented.

Lucia Powell, Treasurer presented a proposed 2005-2006 budget which included a raise in dues to \$100. On motion of Dave Powell, seconded by Leroy Martin, the proposed budget was passed unanimously. The Associate Membership was explained as a vehicle for cottage owners to enroll children or other descendants so that those different members would get Association mailings, too. It was stated that the Association will need to increase its annual charitable donations with the rise in dues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dick Young planned to lead a hike Sunday, August 7, 2005; Tennis was to be played at 2 PM Saturday the sixth; the annual picnic was scheduled for 5:30 PM on the same Saturday and the annual Ridge service was set for Sunday, August 7 at 10:00 AM at the Trinitarian Congregational Church with cottagers singing and David Powell preaching.

Dona Thomas was thanked for her hospitality in providing her cottage for a party for women on the Ridge. Marilyn Williams had calendars and note cards for sale on behalf of the Northfield Historical Society and Mrs. Powell stated that anniversary tote bags were still for sale.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was adjourned at 11:21 AM. Following the meeting, an audio visual presentation was given showing scenes of the Northfield Campus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Burdick