

**Rustic Ridge Association Annual Meeting  
Trinitarian Congregational Church, Northfield, MA  
August 3, 2013, 9:30AM**

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order – Joanna Faraby Walker
  2. Invocation – Kurt Nelson – reflection upon the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”
  3. Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting
    - a. Doug Denise asked for any corrections or deletions. There were none. The minutes will be filed as originally recorded.
  4. Reports and Activities
    - a. President’s Report - Doug Denise
      - i. Five Acre Parcel of Land – Summary of how the Rustic Ridge Association came to be the owners of a five acre parcel of land at the foot of the Ridge, and how it came to be that we were assessed a local property tax by the Town of Northfield for the land during this past year. Two possibilities going forward:
        1. We will demonstrate to the Town of Northfield that we are tax-exempt and we will not be assessed property taxes on the land going forward.
        2. If, for some reason, we don’t qualify for tax-exemption, we will ask the Town of Northfield to tax us based upon the price we actually paid for the land (\$3,800) as opposed to its original assessed price (about \$48,000).
      - ii. Non-Profit Status
        1. Gathering all of the official documents in order to purchase the land and deal with the tax situation led us to realize that we are a 501(c)4, as opposed to a 501(c)3, and fall into a subsection that does not allow donations to the Association to be tax-deductible.
      - iii. Subcommittees and Other Official Positions
        1. Sue Ross resignation
      - iv. Outgoing Board Members
        1. Doug asked everyone to join him in a round of applause for outgoing board members Ann Stearns and Marsha Heydenreich
  5. Treasurer’s Report – Carol
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- a. Went through the budget line-by-line
  - b. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented
  6. Roads Report – Alan Abel
    - a. Showed us "virtual map" of the Ridge roads
    - b. Went through the list of improvements that Steve Wiggin, Alan, and Bob Ziegenhagen made in the past year.
    - c. Went through the list of high-priority improvements that they plan to make in the coming year.
    - d. Kurt Nelson mentioned that the Town of Northfield is planning to redo the section of road at the bottom of the Ridge
    - e. Bob Ziegenhagen let the group know that we are investigating who is responsible for clearing the fire lane
    - f. The Roads Report was accepted as presented
  7. In Memoriam – Lucy Livingston
    - a. Remembrance of Bob Huber
  8. Lobster Fest – Lucy Livingston
    - a. Big success. Came in under budget. Great turnout, lots of kids, lots of volunteers. Thanks to everyone.
  9. Sign Committee – Lucy Livingston
    - a. Twenty-five years of marriage and twenty-five years of signage
    - b. Welcomed two new home owners to the Ridge: Pam Haskins?; the Wheelers
    - c. Signs on Cliff Road got a facelift
  10. Five Acre Trail – Bob Ziegenhagen
    - a. Doug said that Bob is "a trailblazer in the truest sense of the word."
    - b. Bob talked about the natural features of the five acre parcel of land and encouraged everyone to go explore it.
    - c. Make sure you wear bug spray!
    - d. Alan suggested parking near their Cottage if you intend to spend some time there.
    - e. Thanks to Bob for clearing the trail.
  11. Website – Bob Z.
    - a. Rusticridge.org; Username: ridgepeople Password: Northfield1
    - b. If you haven't sent Bob photos of your family members for the family tree section of the website, please do so. He will be happy to put them up on the website
  12. Nominating Committee – Charlotte Martin
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- a. Catherine Broadhead – 4<sup>th</sup> Generation of a Ridge Family: Family owns two homes on the Ridge
- b. Julie Hawken – 5<sup>th</sup> Generation of a Ridge Family; Family owns two homes on the Ridge
- c. Entire board, including new members and officers, accepted for the coming year

### 13. Ridge Representative Report

- a. Steve Power gave the report on behalf of Sue Ross, who could not be at the meeting today
  - i. Master Plan – Town of Northfield has hired a consulting company (Martha Lyons?) to help them come up with a plan for the future
  - ii. Margie Connor would like the Ridge to be mentioned more specifically in the Master Plan
    - 1. Steve agreed to bring this concern forward. He agreed that the Ridge is an important part of Northfield and should be recognized as such.
  - iii. Open Space Committee
    - 1. Ask NMH to separate the golf course/swimming pool from other land for conservation?
    - 2. Work on reopening the trail on Craggy Mountain?
  - iv. Schell Bridge
    - 1. A new bikeway is going to be built on the site of the old Schell Bridge using state funds (no local money needed)
    - 2. This bikeway will incorporate, to the extent possible, design elements of the old Schell Bridge.
    - 3. Could the bikeway be wider in order to accommodate vehicles?
      - a. No. This grant (CMAC) is specifically for projects that improve congestion and air quality issues.
    - 4. Who will maintain ownership/responsibility for the bridge?
      - a. Unknown as of now. Maybe Northfield, maybe Department of Conservation Resources
    - 5. Has the Town of Northfield considering purchasing the golf course and the pool?
      - a. Not sure the town has the resources to do that, but it is definitely in question. Has lots of public support.

6. Friends of Schell Bridge
  - a. If, for some reason, the bikeway doesn't get built, the Friends of Schell Bridge will continue their work of trying to rehabilitate the original bridge
7. Survey of Northfield Homes
  - a. A survey of all the homes that were built up around the old NMH campus that has added lots of information to the historical record
8. Northfield Businesses
  - a. Definitely struggling since the closing of the campus.
  - b. The owner of the Centennial House B&B led the formation of a coalition of Northfield business owners.
9. Northfield Mount Hermon
  - a. Is determined to move all of their operations, including faculty housing, to the Mount Hermon campus
10. Thank You – Doug
  - a. Although Sue Ross no longer wants to serve as the Ridge Representative in an official capacity, she does still want to be involved, and we need a robust connection between the Ridge and the Town on Northfield, although the board has voted to leave the Ridge Representative position empty for the coming year.
11. Questions and Reminders from the Members
  - a. Colin Walker asked when Steve Severence would be picking up slash.
  - b. Margie Connor mentioned taking refuge in the library and perusing the memorial book collection
  - c. Two open houses tomorrow for year-round homes on the Ridge. Please tell your friends.
  - d. Carol mentioned the table decoration contest tonight.
  - e. Janet mentioned the church service tomorrow morning and the choir.