



Ridge Civic



Caring Citizens in a Quiet Country Community

Ridge Civic Association • P.O. Box 354 Ridge, NY 11961 • ridgescivic@gmail.com • ridgescivic.org • facebook.com/ridgescivic

Officers

Scott Wood
President

Debbie Bedell
Vice President

Chris Sosik
Corresponding Secretary

Cynthia Eaton Tvelia
Recording Secretary

Ken Casanova
Treasurer

Board Members

Ken Casanova
David Donofrio
George Fernandez
John Gulino
Susan Kaufold
Holly Wood
Scott Wood

Trustees

Ninette Kayton
Chris Sosik
Cynthia Eaton Tvelia

General Membership Meeting September 21, 2022, 7:30 pm Ridge Fire House

Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:27 pm by Scott Wood

Welcome

- Commissioner Brooks welcomes group and notifies us the fire exits and location of restrooms. Ridge Civic is the first group meeting in newly renovated firehouse.

Reading of the Minutes

- Motion to waive reading and access online moved by Debbie Bedell, seconded by Ninette Kayton.

Financial Report

- President Scott Wood reports that all monies borrowed for summer concert have been repaid
- Treasurer Ken Casanova reports a \$1,540.06 profit from the summer concert as well as the following current balances:
 - \$16,849.90 — Totals in all accounts
 - \$5,646.68 — General checking (includes summer concert profit)
 - \$3,518.57 — Community park fund
 - \$854.89 — Schoolhouse fund
 - \$2,620.28 — Scholarship fund (after \$500 scholarship check cleared)
 - \$533.75 — Beautification fund
 - \$3,672.73 — Savings

Correspondence

- President Scott Wood indicates that Legislator Sarah Anker is hosting a substance misuse educational forum, all are welcome, October 13 at Mt Sinai High School; fliers

available. Anker staff member Jennifer Satchell adds there will be educational speeches as well as Narcan training.

Unfinished Business

- None at this time

New Business

- Brookhaven Town Fair is September 24-25 this year, 10 am to 5 pm, and Ridge Civic will again host a booth at Longwood Estate. In addition to a 50/50 raffle that has been started at Gray's Hardware, building upon last year's success we will host four stations on the theme of family friendly fun:
 1. Cardboard Construction: Volunteers age 16+ use masking tape and box cutters to assist children as they build various creations out of cardboard: houses, rockets, mazes, vehicles, etc.
 2. Bubble Base: Volunteers age 12+ assist at a plastic swimming pool filled with bubble solution as children take turns making oversized bubbles with sticks and string provided.
 3. Crayola Creation Station: Volunteers age 12+ help staff large picnic tables covered with paper on which children can draw and color whatever they please. Basic artistic skills helpful but not required.
 4. Bean Bag Toss: Other volunteers help staff the Ridge Civic bean bag toss by assisting younger children, fetching bean bags and/or staffing the main table where we will be collecting donations.
- We are inviting volunteers from the local community and especially the high school and we have about 7-8 already signed up.

Fire Department Donation

- Ridge Civic again would like to donate \$100 to the Ridge Fire Department. Motion made by Debbie Bedell, seconded by Ken Casanova. Motion passes unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Officer James Anson, SCPD

- Officer Anson of the Suffolk County Police COPE Department greets meeting, shares contact info as 631-852-8775 (direct line to COPE office) and james.anson@suffolkcounty.ny.gov (although email currently down due to data breach).
- All officers in center precinct now wearing body cameras. This is welcomed by the officers because everything is recorded and recordings accessible by DA's office. Cameras can also be livestreamed from HQ to view what's happening in real time. Officer Anson believes all precincts will have them. Cost of saving videos is a bit high due to storage fees, but public will appreciate their use as well.
- Very large uptick in larcenies in Ridge as well as in Suffolk County in general. Catalytic converter thefts are due to precious metals contained are lucrative for scrap metal.

Often happens at night, theft is exceptionally quick, so even if you hear a noise and wake up, the thieves are gone within about two minutes. Ring videos help, but too often residents complain to “Officer Facebook” instead of notifying the police. Please always notify the police so statistics can be tracked. May not catch them in the act but can charge them with possession of tools associated with the crime. It’s not bad to notify neighbors through social media groups but also notify SCPD so they can track statistics and patterns and better protect residents.

- Uptick also in larcenies and burglaries, especially of quads and dirt bikes out of garages & sheds. Perpetrators find items to steal because of how they’ve been posted on on social media sites like FB Marketplace or Let It Go, so the precinct will distribute info to residents about how to properly advertise the things that you want to sell, e.g., don’t include license plates or your home in background with the address visible. There’s a direct connection between such ads and being targeted.
- The Suffolk County ransomware attack caused a massive shut down. Some systems back up, others still down. Email remains nonfunctional and getting work back online is slow.
- There was a terrible accident in Yaphank, as three juveniles from Mastic Beach area in stolen car were killed due to the combination of speed, driving inexperience, and alcohol.
- Residents should be aware that the reservation in Mastic is selling marijuana just as it does cigarettes; this is allowed even though it’s not a dispensary.
- A resident asked about various vehicle break-ins on Woodlot Road; Officer Anson advises that people always need to contact SCPD so that they can add this to their statistics database and/or look at Ring or other videos.
- Joe Mercado notes that if items are stolen out of vehicle, vehicle insurance does not cover but homeowners or renters insurance does typically cover such theft.

Thank you to Officer Anson.

Member Concerns

- Question from resident about what is happening in Rocky Point at the corner of Route 25A and Ridge Road in a commercial property that now says sold? Unsure.
- Melanie Cardone-Leathers, Longwood Public Library’s local historian, will be at the Brookhaven Town Fair in front of schoolhouse and will have local history information available. Will have a display and sign to honor 150th anniversary of Ridge School House, including when it was moved by the Ridge Civic from its original site to its current site on Longwood Estate. Thank you to Melanie.

Committees

- A. Community Park — No updates
- B. Membership — Some new member applications have come in

- C. Downtown Beautification — Debbie Bedell will be painting posts at Veterans Memorial; Scott had recently mowed the lawn. Debbie would also like to get banners back on Route 25 utility poles as well as a new American flag on each of the light poles to help beautify our downtown. Debbie also plans to add decorations to each of the flower pots associated with each of the holidays, e.g., for Halloween. Thank you to Debbie for all she does for our community.
- D. School House — As noted, Ridge School House will be honored this weekend for 150th anniversary
- E. Clean Up — Rich Paduspska reports that clean ups are continuing
- F. Scholarship Committee — Continuing to look for new chair
- G. Events – Ninette Kayton reports that this weekend’s town fair has been the major focus
- H. Brookhaven National Lab – Ken Casanova reports that toxicity levels in the aquifer on this side of William Floyd has been tested and is safe. When individuals dig wells to water grass, not sure if those wells are being tested. BNL exploring use of hydrogen for energy storage and building a new welcome center that will be on the corner of Longwood Road, which is on track for completion within two years and will include museum, info booth, welcome center, etc., and will relieve pressure on police in the entrance booth and be more visitor friendly.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.