



# Ridge Civic



*Caring Citizens in a Quiet Country Community*

Ridge Civic Association • P.O. Box 354 Ridge, NY 11961 • [ridgecivic@gmail.com](mailto:ridgecivic@gmail.com) • [ridgecivic.org](http://ridgecivic.org) • [facebook.com/ridgecivic](https://facebook.com/ridgecivic)

## 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 February 15, 2023, 7:30 pm Ridge Fire House**

### Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

### Reading of the Minutes

- Minutes are accessible online at [ridgecivic.org](http://ridgecivic.org), so please access those on our website: [ridgecivic.org](http://ridgecivic.org).

### Financial Report

- President Scott Wood reports on behalf of Treasurer Ken Casanova the following current balances, which does not reflect the \$1,000 donation to the Veterans Memorial that was approved at the last meeting.
  - **\$17,274.11** — Total in all accounts
  - \$6,073.49 — General checking
  - \$3,518.72 — Community park fund
  - \$854.89 — Schoolhouse fund
  - \$2,620.38 — Scholarship fund
  - \$533.75 — Beautification fund
  - \$3,672.88 — Savings

### Correspondence

- None at this time

### Unfinished Business

- Scott Wood: Last time, I mentioned that Blessings in a Backpack will have a packing event on February 22 at 5 pm at Longwood Junior High School. Ridge Civic will be joining to help. At Ridge School, Blessings is currently feeding 65 children every weekend. There's a need to feed 100-125 children (they have a wait list), but because of cost increases, fewer children are getting food and they have had to cut

back on how much they can put into each bag, from 8 to 6 items. We would like to donate \$500 to help Blessings in a Backpack.

**Motion to donate \$500 to Blessings in a Backpack to help feed hungry children in our community made by Holly Wood, seconded by Lois Meyer. Motion is approved.**

- Regarding the Veterans Memorial renovation: John Gulino asked me to share some updates. First, thank you to Mike Loguercio for procuring a 30' flagpole for this project. In addition, an electric meter on the post will be moved behind the wall and underground. Plaques for each of the five branches of military service have been ordered. Bollards have been ordered thanks in part to our \$1,000 donation at the last meeting. The large rock will be moved to the back of the wall and raised up to be more visible. A fence similar to the one at the community park will be around the back of the park, and planters will be installed at the entrance.

### New Business

- Scott Wood: A new business in town sells CBD, a shop on the other side of William Floyd Parkway next to Sultan Auto. You must be 21 year or older to enter and they are open 11 to 8 seven days a week.

Mike Loguercio: Just as a note: The town recently passed a law that marijuana distributors can only be in an industrial zoned area, not in a residential area.

- The date for the Memorial Day Parade is May 20 at 10 am. We will have more details at a future meeting.

### Guest Speakers: Amy Engel and Kahille Dorsinvil, BNL Environmental and Community Engagement

- Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) has a community advisory council, and Ken Casanova has been the rep for Ridge Civic since 2009, so we appreciate your being with us for such a long time. We want to be a resource to you, your kids, and your grandkids. We have lots of activities, service opportunities, and job openings to share with you.
- Amy and Kahille show the [This is Brookhaven Lab](#) video.
- There are many types of science done at BNL. It started as mostly a particle physics facility and continues that, but they have added other areas. Our relativistic ion collider is the only one in the US and only one of two in the world. Our areas of research include materials and chemicals, plant science, quantum computing, etc., but mostly we are an energy laboratory—so that focus is on how to create, store, and transmit energy effectively such as with solar, biofuel, batteries, and catalytic conversions.
- Our facilities are made available to scientists all over the world to come use free of charge. BNL does our own research—e.g., we are doing a lot of work to fight cancer all the way up to stage 4—but also we enable research from scientists all over the world. We are proud to have scientists who have achieved 7 Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry, the most out of any of the national 17 labs in the nation.
- We are in partnership with Stony Brook University and Battelle Memorial Institute. We have 2,500 staff, 140 joint faculty, and 500 students as well as 350+ high school and college interns each year. In FY '19 we had over 5,000 visitors. Over 30,000 K-12 students visit us annually. Learn more about our educational programs at [bnl.gov/education](http://bnl.gov/education).

- We operate on a budget of \$600 million and support 4,800 jobs. New York State allocated an additional \$20 million to relocate the Yaphank station to BNL to help us grow.
- You might be interested to learn that our national synchrotron light source was used to study Covid-19 atomic proteins and contributed to the development of the vaccine by Pfizer/Moderna.
- Our electron-ion collider (EIC) will be a major force in maintaining BNL's leading position in nuclear physics, including new jobs. Operations could begin in the early 2030's. The EIC probes into the nuclei of atoms, allowing us to find answers about the origins of mass and what holds visible matter together and how. Beyond that, there are applications for cancer, pushing the limits of computation, national security advances such as detecting nuclear materials, advancing energy solutions, and more.
- Our [Summer Sundays program](#) is one of our most popular programs. These take place every Sunday in July, re-opening this summer, and they are free and open to the public. Come in with your families to learn about the science we do at BNL.
- Discovery Park is a newer program, for which we are repurposing a previously developed 60-acre area. You can see an overview at [discoverypark.bnl.gov](http://discoverypark.bnl.gov). This will include a STEM education center affiliated with SUNY Old Westbury and Stony Brook University, two buildings for housing and guest users, and some private industry buildings and technology incubators. The goal is to generate economic development and more jobs. We are in conversations with education and private industry partners for development. All our land is owned by the federal government, so that complicates things a bit. Discovery Park will open in phases, with educational and visitor areas opening within the next few years.

#### **Guest Speaker: Fire District Commissioner Jeff Campo**

The Ridge Fire District will start a fire district Facebook page with information for the community. For example, recently there was an alarm in the middle of the night, but it was a glitch in the system—and we needed an easier way to get information like that out to the community. It would be nice to also have a small section in the Ridge Civic newsletter.

Since January 1, there were 379 alarms in our fire district. Last year was the highest number that we have ever had. It's good for community to know how often our volunteers are going out on your behalf. We had about 25 alarms on Christmas Day. It's good to have more direct information out to the public and to enable questions.

#### **Member Concerns**

- None at this time

#### **Committees**

- A. Community Park (Chris Sosik/John Gulino): Scott reports for John: Damaged pavers at the park will be replaced, a light bulb will be replaced as well as the broken electrical outlet. The new sign for Phil Reany has been replaced and installed. Thank you to Vinny Lancellata for making the plaque and RFC for the installation.

We are looking to redo the Ridge Community Park sign; it needs to be refurbished, it's moldy in spots, etc., and we are told that will cost around \$1,000.

In addition, the tree we use for the Christmas tree lighting has been trimmed. It cost

\$625 to trim the giant spruce tree, and they are looking for reimbursement.

Mike Loguercio: Why didn't you just have the town Parks Department trim it for you? That's literally what they do. Scott: I believe that RFC had a private company come in and already paid for it, so we need to reimburse them.

**Motion to allocate \$625 from our Community Park budget line for reimbursement of the tree trimming made by Holly Wood, seconded by Debbie Bedell. Motion is approved.**

**Motion to allocate \$1,000 from our Community Park budget line for the refurbishing of the Ridge Community Park sign made by Holly Wood, seconded by Debbie Bedell. Motion is approved.**

Scott: We believe we will need to some fundraising to replenish our accounts. Our Bylaws say that all funds come from dues or donations and any other fundraising needs to be approved by a majority vote at our meeting. Therefore I'm asking that if we plan to conduct a 50/50 raffle in the future, do we have your approval to do so?

**All in favor. Motion is approved.** Scott Wood: Thank you for that.

- B. Membership (Holly Wood) — Holly reports that we continue to welcome people at the shop who ask about the Ridge Civic Association and join the group.
- C. Downtown Beautification (Debbie Bedell) — Debbie reports decorative street lights are not all fixed. The town says there is no money in the budget for these repairs.

Mike Loguercio: I will look into this because I'm not sure why they would say that to you. Next time, please be sure to come through me first rather than call because I can facilitate on your behalf.

Debbie: Also, Residential Fencing will be replacing the planters on Route 25 with new ones.

- D. School House (Chris Sosik) — No report at this time
- E. Clean Up (Rich Paduspska) — No report at this time
- F. Scholarship Committee (*vacant*) — Scott reports that this position remains vacant if anyone is interested. Scholarships applications must be in by May 15: \$500 for a local public student and \$500 for a private school student who lives in Ridge. Students can apply online at [ridgescivic.org](http://ridgescivic.org).
- G. Events (Ninette Kayton) — Ninette is absent but will announce the date for Easter egg hunt at our next meeting.
- H. Brookhaven National Lab (Ken Casanova) — Ken is not here tonight, but we've already heard from BNL.

## Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.