



Ridge Civic



Caring Citizens in a Quiet Country Community

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

Officers

Scott Wood
President

Ninette Kayton
Vice President

Cynthia Eaton Tvelia
Secretary

John Capurso
Treasurer

Directors

David Donofrio
George Fernandez
Susan Kaufold
Holly Wood
Scott Wood

Trustees

Ninette Kayton
Victoria Molloy
Cynthia Eaton Tvelia

General Membership Meeting September 20, 2023, 7:30 pm Ridge Firehouse

Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by President **Scott Wood**.

Reading of the Minutes

- Minutes are accessible online so please access those on our website: ridgecivic.org.

Financial Report

- **Scott Wood** reports the amounts in the Ridge Civic accounts—general checking, community park, schoolhouse, scholarship, beautification, and savings—since treasurer **John Capurso** is unable to attend this evening.
- **Cynthia Eaton Tvelia** adds that treasurer also reports the following:
 1. Currently 76 dues paying regular members and two business members as of September 16, 2023.
 2. Total in dues from April to September taken in is \$775.
 3. Following up with local businesses who place business card ads in our newsletter which helps subsidize our newsletter printing and mailing costs.
 4. The [2020 Census reports](#) 13,271 residents in Ridge, with 16.6% under the age of 18, which totals 11,069 adults age 18+ in Ridge. With 76 dues-paying members, this is only a .7% membership rate. Will do a membership drive this fall.

Correspondence

- None at this time.

Unfinished Business

- **Summer Concert:** **Scott Wood** reports that all the money paid out in advance for our second annual summer concert has been fully reimbursed to our accounts. Thanks go

to Legislator Sarah Anker and her staff for their assistance.

- **Ridge Schoolhouse:** A descriptive plaque has been purchased to give brief historical context to Ridge Schoolhouse at Longwood Estate, to help guests at the estate better understand its historical significance to Ridge community. Plaque will be installed soon.

New Business

- **Brookhaven Town Fair at Longwood Estate:** Deeply sorry it had to be canceled due to inclement weather. Looking forward to next year's event.
- **Proposed Amendments to Ridge Civic Bylaws**

Proposals by executive board to membership for consideration. Motion to bring to floor made by **Suzanne Siegel** and is seconded. **Secretary Cynthia Eaton Tvelia** reviews proposed amendments, made available both on PowerPoint and on paper.

- Ridge Civic Association bylaws last updated in 1999
- In addition to editing/formatting issues, proposing revisions in three main areas: Objective (mission statement), Officers, and Expenditures as detailed below
- In keeping with bylaws, presenting proposals now in writing for discussion and review, then will ask for vote to be taken at our October meeting; requires 2/3 vote of membership present and voting at October meeting

[Proposal 1: Objective \(Article I. Section 2\)—Revise/update objectives of the association](#)

Current language: The object shall be to maintain and stimulate in the community of Ridge, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York, an interest in the civic and social affairs; to develop an aggressive and serviceable citizenship; to inculcate in its members the highest ideals and concepts of Americanism and to hold meetings and social gatherings for the better realization of these purposes; to protect, maintain and improve property; obtain and distribute information of interest on events concerning the greater Ridge Community.

Proposed language: The objectives of Ridge Civic Association shall be to:

1. Encourage civic and democratic engagement from a broad range of Ridge residents
2. Develop and maintain an informed and productive membership, dedicated to serving the interests of civic and social affairs in the greater Ridge community
3. Enhance the quality of life in Ridge, including protecting, maintaining, and improving our natural surroundings and public spaces
4. Promote the general welfare and safety of our neighborhoods, encouraging unity and pride in our hamlet
5. Educate and inform Ridge residents about a variety of issues that may impact our region
6. Obtain and distribute information about events and activities of interest to the greater Ridge community.

Proposal 2: Officers (Article III. Section 2)—Combine positions of recording secretary and corresponding secretary

Current language:

PARAGRAPH C - RECORDING SECRETARY

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep minutes of the meetings of the Association, as well as its Executive Board.

PARAGRAPH D - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct correspondence, issue all notices as required, and notify new members of their acceptance into the Association. All correspondence involving this Association business of policies shall bear the approval of the Executive Board.

Proposed language:

C. Secretary The secretary shall

1. Record, correct, keep, and publish minutes of general, special, and annual meetings as well as executive board meetings
2. Conduct correspondence, issue all notices as required, and notify new members of their acceptance into Ridge Civic Association; all correspondence involving Ridge Civic business or policies shall bear the approval of the executive board
3. Be custodian of all Ridge Civic Association documents, including bylaws and minutes.

Proposal 3: Expenditures (Article IV)—Add provision to specify no funds shall be to personal benefit of individual board or other member; add provision limiting expenditures to no more than \$250 without approval of board.

Current language:

ARTICLE V. FUNDS

All funds of the Association shall be raised by dues through the membership, or by donations of the membership, or such enterprises duly approved and passed by a majority vote of the membership present at any meeting.

ARTICLE III. Section 2

No individual members, trustee or officer of the Association, either elected or appointed, may enter into any agreement or contract, either written or oral, on behalf of the Association, involving funds belonging to the Association, except as approved by a majority of the membership attending any regular, special or annual meeting.

Proposed language:

ARTICLE IV. Funds and Contracts

- A. All funds of Ridge Civic Association shall be raised by membership dues, donations, or such enterprises duly approved and passed by a majority vote of the membership present at any meeting.
 - B. No part of the funds of Ridge Civic Association shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, trustees, directors, or other private persons, except that the association is authorized to make reimbursement for approved expenses on behalf of Ridge Civic Association.
 - C. No expenditure on behalf of Ridge Civic Association in an amount greater than \$250.00 may be spent without approval of the executive board.
- The Ridge Fire Department is conducting their annual fundraising drive. Motion to bring discussion to the floor made by **Ninette Kayton** and seconded. Discussion ensues.

Holly Wood makes motion to donate \$100 to Ridge Fire Department in support of their work. Motion is seconded and passes unanimously.

Guest Speaker

- Representative from [STAR Foundation](#) introduces membership to purpose of this Middle Island animal rescue and rehabilitation organization as well as to two ambassador animals, a tortoise and a hawk. Learn more at STAR Foundation: savetheanimalsrescue.org. **Scott Wood** expresses gratitude to STAR for sharing their time and expertise with our membership.

Member Concerns

- Councilman **Mike Loguercio** shares that he is also disappointed the Town Fair was canceled due to weather and responds to inquiry that there is no rain date. On September 23, there is [a free pet adoption event](#) at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter and on September 30, 9 am to 1 pm, the Town of Brookhaven Division of Women's Services will host 14th Annual Conference, "Human Trafficking: The Sad Reality," [an educational seminar about human trafficking on Long Island](#) at the town hall.
- Question to Mike about what is happening at EPCAL in Calverton? Mike indicates that's not in our purview. Brookhaven Town can make statement on behalf of citizens who will be impacted, but the decisions belong to Riverhead Town Board.
- Chad Lennon, candidate for Suffolk County Legislator for the 6th District which will include Ridge, shares brief biography with group and reminds people to vote on November 7.

Committee Reports

- Community Park — **Scott Wood** reports that park is looking fine, other than issues currently aware of.
- Membership — **Holly Wood** reports that some but not many people have joined since our last meeting; deadline is July 1 so big push happened in spring; as previously noted we currently have 76 dues-paying members.

- Downtown Beautification — Scott Wood reports that we are in need of someone to take the lead on this committee.
- School House — As previously noted, plaque has been purchased and will be installed
- Clean Up — Rich Paduspska reports that all has been going well
- Scholarship Committee — No update at this time
- Events – Ninette Kayton reports that next event will be Santa at the Park in early December; details to be shared at October and November meetings
- Brookhaven National Lab – Scott Wood reports that the next meeting is tomorrow night.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.