



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 November 20, 2024, 7:30 pm Ridge Firehouse

Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm by **President Scott Wood**

Reading of the Minutes

- Minutes are accessible on our website: ridgecivic.org.

Financial Report

- **President Scott Wood** reports the amounts in the Ridge Civic accounts—general checking, scholarship, downtown beautification, and savings—and indicated that we continue to await reimbursement for our \$3,700 invoices from the summer entertainment grant but have been reassured it is forthcoming.

Correspondence

- None at this time.

Guest Speaker: **Jeanne Knudsen, Social Studies Teacher, and Kaitlyn Wood, Student, Longwood High School**

- Jeanne and Kaitlyn explain the project that Longwood High School students are currently working on as part of the [NYS Seal of Civic Readiness program](#). The program enables students to gain experiences that earn them an additional accolade upon graduation, signifying the student's understanding of a commitment to participatory government, civic responsibility, and civic values as well as demonstrates to colleges and future employers that they've completed an action project in civics or social justice.
- The students are working on a community mapping project to better determine specific local interests and needs. In addition, they've been working on other projects including research for historical markers, cleaning graves at Union Cemetery, helping at the Veterans' Day Ceremony at Bartlett Park, voter registration drives, and

working at the polls on Election Day. Students can volunteer for Ridge Civic for service hours as well.

Old Business

- **Wreath placed at Veterans Memorial, donated by Kaufold's Country Sheds and Gazebos** — Thank you so much to the Kaufolds!
- **Toy drive for Ridge Elementary** — Last year, we collected so many new, unwrapped toys, the children were allowed to each select not just one but two toys each for the holidays! We are continuing to collect toys through December 11; drop off at Gray's Hardware
- **Food collection for Neighbors Being Human** — We continue to collect food donations for Neighbors Being Human for their Yaphank food pantry; there are about 35 families signed up in Yaphank who are in need
- **Clothing collection for homeless veterans, by Legislator Chad Lennon** — The collection of clothing items for homeless veterans, organized by General Need, continues as well; drop off is also at Gray's Hardware.

New Business

- Our annual Meet Santa and Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 7, at 5 pm. Ridge Fire Department will bring Santa on a fire truck, who will pose with children in the gazebo after lighting the tree in the park. Ridge Civic will have a small table with candy for children.
- [Annual indoor vendor & crafts fundraiser will be hosted by American Legion Auxiliary 1887](#) on November 23, 10 am to 4 pm, at Leisure Knoll Recreation Center, 108 Sheffield Drive, Ridge, to benefit veterans, active military, and Gold Star families.

Member Concerns

- Brookhaven Town Councilman Mike Loguercio reminds us that Saturday, December 7, will be the annual Santa Comes to Longwood event at Longwood Estate, from 11 am to 2 pm. Come to enjoy holiday festivities, the train display, tour the historic home and Ridge Schoolhouse, have your photo taken with Santa, and enjoy hot chocolate. Question for councilman is asked about old Ridge Rest Home: The building has been condemned but currently not under orders to be demolished.
- Barbara Royce notes on behalf of Blessings in a Backpack that they are hosting a fundraiser at Top Golf on December 3 (two hours that includes golfing and dinner); see Facebook post for details.
- Barbara also notes on behalf of Neighbors Being Human raised \$7,800 at the middle school for their event at which local restaurants provided good food for everyone to sample.

Committee Reports

- Downtown Beautification — Will continue with flowers in planters in spring
- Community Clean Up — Could still use volunteers for this committee, some efforts being made along Smith Road

- Community Park — Looking great lately and ready to be decorated for our Meet Santa event on December 7
- School House — No updates at this time
- Events – Next event is Meet Santa at Ridge Community Park on December 7 at 5 pm
- Welcoming — Got a couple new members; current members reminded to pay their dues: online, by check via U.S. Postal Service, or by check or cash in person (at our meetings or at Gray's Hardware)
- Scholarship Committee — No report until spring
- Brookhaven National Lab – Community Advisory Committee next meeting will be in March or April

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.