



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 18, 2024, 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 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. Please note regarding the \$12k county grant, \$8,200 was reimbursed to us and we submitted the final two invoices within the past week.

Correspondence

- Received a thank you note from our 2024 scholarship recipient Kaylee Merkle
- Received a letter from Suffolk County Legislator Chad Lennon, congratulating Ridge Civic member Jeanne Knudsen for being awarded outstanding high school social studies teacher

Guest Speaker: Kevin LaValle, Brookhaven Town Clerk

- Reviewed services provided by Town Clerk's office; [visit the Town Clerk website](#) to learn more
- Brookhaven Town is about ½ million residents, 2nd largest in state by population and largest in state geographically so Town Clerk is a large, busy office with about 30 employees
- Services include management of certificates and records, FOIL requests, various licenses including marriage licenses, boat slips and marina access, parking permits for individuals with disabilities, land use applications, and management of records for our 369-year-old township, including vital records (such as birth, death, and marriage

certificates) and historical records (such as building of the LIE), a vault for historical documents, and an updated scanning system so all town departments see records in a centralized system

Guest Speaker: Chris Foster, Principal, Ridge Elementary School

- Here to share greetings at start of new academic year and let everyone know he is open to collaborative projects with Ridge Civic Association
- There was an emergency situation on the first day of school, grateful for supportive community response and patience, particularly glad to see how well Ridge Fire Department responded.

Unfinished Business

- **Review of Summer Concert, July 27** — [Concert was well attended at Longwood Estate on Saturday, July 27](#), with just under 200 guests. We are grateful to Abby Normal for performing again this year; they are always a hit with the guests. Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success:
 - Legislator Chad Lennon and staffer Kayla MacKay who greeted the crowd
 - Olivia Alkintor who sang "The Star-Spangled Banner"
 - Ridge Cub Scout Troop 187 who led the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Blessings in a Backpack who hosted a tent & Susan Kennedy from Tend Coffee (Montauk Highway in Shirley)
 - Director of Longwood Estate Diane Schwindt who helped arrange the location
 - Ridge Fire Department who provided EMS support
- **Review of Family Movie Night, August 17** — Our [first ever family movie night also went well!](#) We counted around 100 people at the event and suspect the rain that cut the show a bit short was a culprit. Again, our gratitude goes to the following:
 - Zag's Photo Booth for providing photos for the guests
 - Staff member Kayla MacKay from Legislator Chad Lennon's office for the introductions
 - Olivia Alkintor who sang "The Star-Spangled Banner"
 - Ridge Cub Scout Troop 187 who led the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Tanya Capurso for serving as our mascot for the evening, the Troll character named Poppy, who was a huge hit!
 - RCA Vice President Ninette DiGaetano Kayton and Cynthia Eaton Tvelia for making Trolls headbands for sale
 - Glenn and Kathy Paganetti for hosting a cotton candy machine station
 - Blessings in a Backpack
 - Director of Longwood Estate Diane Schwindt
 - Ridge Fire Department for EMS support
 - Movies in the Moonlight for the film rental

New Business

- Annual Town of Brookhaven Country Fair at Longwood Estate, slated for this weekend, September 21-22, 10 am to 5 pm each day. We will have four stations at our booth, as in the recent years: Cardboard Construction Zone, Art Creation Station, Bubble Base, and Ridge Civic Beanbag Toss. Join us!

- We currently have four accounts at Webster Bank: general fund, scholarship fund, downtown beautification fund, and savings. Webster recently notified us that we will be charged \$15/month for each separate account. That's \$180/year per account or \$720/year total; due diligence says we must be more careful with our membership dues.

Would like a motion to combine all four into a single account and use line-item accounting to keep track of the different budget lines. *Motion to put on floor made by N. Kayton and seconded.* Questions?

Should we explore a bank other than Webster for better rates? — We prefer to stay at Webster because it is located in Ridge, right next door to Gray's Hardware and within a half mile of current treasurer, and thus conveniently accessed in person.

Did you inquire about avoiding fees? — Yes, but told it will definitely impact each separate account. We would prefer to stay at Webster because it is in downtown Ridge and by simply combining accounts we avoid the quadrupling of the annual fee.

- *Motion to approve combining current four separate Webster Bank accounts into a single account and tracking line items in treasurer's budget made by H. Wood and seconded. Motion is approved with one abstention.*
- Kathy Megas announces American Legion Auxiliary 1887 will have their annual vendor and crafts fundraiser for veterans, active military, and Gold Star families on November 23 at Leisure Knoll, so if interested in serving as a vendor, contact Kathy.
- During our movie night, we drew the name of the winner of the summer 50/50 raffle, which is Steve Kern. Congrats to Steve! We had raised \$281 total from selling snacks, popcorn, and Trolls headbands.
- Also did a drawing for a lucky member to receive a \$25 gift certificate to Harvest Moon Deli: Name drawn is AJ Pearsall. Congrats to AJ!

Member Concerns

- **Chad Lennon, Suffolk County Legislator, District 6**
 - Office has moved to 745 Route 25A, Suite D, in Rocky Point
 - If local residents experienced damage from the August 19 floods, register with the Office of Emergency Management to help you with the process
 - Choices and Consequences event is this evening, informational event for youth about consequences of distracted driving and driving under the influence
 - Shed the Meds event is Friday, September 20, at LPL, sponsored by Senator Dean Murray, about how to properly dispose of unneeded or unwanted medications
 - Narcan training will be held next Tuesday, September 24, at VFW in Rocky Point
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Committee Reports

- Community Park — Work continues on repairs to gazebo and park
- Membership — Members are 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)
- Downtown Beautification — Will be placed mums in planters shortly
- School House — Some further work done with painting and light repairs
- Clean Up — No report at this time
- Scholarship Committee — No report at this time
- Events – As mentioned, next event is the Brookhaven Town Country Fair
- Brookhaven National Lab – Community Advisory Committee meeting was last week, there's a new building coming and they are cleaning out old building

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.