

2017 Season's Greetings from the President

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Terry Haines for his 12 years of service on the Rum Ridge Board. For the majority of those years, if not all, Terry served as the Association's Secretary. During this period, we have all benefitted from his attention to detail, organizational skills and expertise. Hopefully, with his resignation comes additional time for Terry and Fran to enjoy the activities they hold dearly. Best wishes and thank you again for your service Terry!

Since the Annual Meeting and the scheduled workday in October it has been a roller coaster ride in Rum Ridge with the weather. Most recently, it was the windstorm that left Rum Ridge and a half a million other Mainers without power for nearly a week. It was four and a half days here. In addition, the roads were all graded and set for winter freeze up and the rains came. Obviously, the end result is potholes. I guess we do have to remember we live on gravel roads. The same situation resulted on the East Road from the airport to the KI Road. Increased road maintenance is our future.

On a more positive note, the Annual Meeting and Picnic was very successful. Jane Benson, David Hartley and Dan and Mary Pawluk did a fantastic job organizing and delivering refreshments for both the Annual Picnic and October 7th work day. Approximately 55 individuals attended. It was a beautiful summer day with plenty of sun and a cool breeze coming off the pond. Once again, Art Pasetchnik manned the grill and did an excellent job. Board elections took place and two new members were elected. Karen Hopkins was elected as a Member at Large and Bob Ludwig was elected as the Rum Ridge Association's new Secretary. Karen will become Treasurer in 2018 when Peg Wood steps down.

Over the winter months Mike Bushman, head of the road committee and Bob Ludwig will be developing a comprehensive road maintenance plan for the next ten years. This will not only include the traditional seasonal grading but include the cost of rebuilding/top dressing sections of the road system and the necessary ditching to prevent water eroding the roads. We must keep in mind the Rum Ridge road system was built in 1972. That was 45 years ago! It has held up well during this period but now needs attention. Much of the information gathered over the winter will be shared in the Spring Newsletter and at the Annual Meeting.

Once again the scheduled workday in October was a huge success. Approximately 25 volunteers showed up to work on trails, stain docks, and cut brush along the road system. One thing we should keep in mind is that we live in a climax forest with mature spruce and fir trees. Many of the trees that came down during the wind storm fall into this category. After the storm, Bob Ludwig completed a detailed assessment of the individual tree damage in Rum Ridge. Fortunately, there was little structural damage for camp and home owners. For a period, the Rum Ridge road was closed with downed power lines and trees. We had some damage yes, but we really dodged a bullet!

Since the summer there has been an increase in logging activity on the KI Road and the lower Rum Pond Road. Hopefully the Rum Pond section will be completed prior to the beginning of the snowmobile season since it is part of the interconnected trail system (ITS 85). We are very fortunate to have easy access to the snowmobile trail system from Rum Ridge. Concerns about ice safety on Lower Wilson Pond for trail access are no longer an issue. Many of us are looking forward to excellent winter conditions for ice fishing, snowshoeing, skiing and snowmobiling.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season and coming New Year!

Health and Happiness!

Jack C. Sheltmire, President

Rum Ridge Association