

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden June 10, 2025

Thank you for allowing us to report on recent developments at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

The long-awaited siding project is finally underway. President Mark Dwyer is leading a crew of volunteers to take off the old, deteriorated shakes from the Auditorium. Under those, they discovered the original boards are pine covered in green paint. This was a surprise, since the only old photographs we have of the building are in black and white. It was no surprise that there is no insulation in the walls.

Stripping the exterior has allowed us access to any problems that might have been hidden. Wiring leading to eight antique sconces gracing the interior walls has been replaced. Any structural issues in the attic and in the basement are being addressed. The unsightly ramp that had been tacked onto the front is gone, and the building is returning to its original configuration.

As a reminder, the 104-year-old Auditorium was built by the mountain people themselves with money for construction garnered through their own fundraising efforts and donations. We appreciate the generous help of the Town of Walden toward the current rehabilitation. To husband the donated funds, we have cut white-oak trees, hauled them to the mill, and had them sawn into lumber that we have been seasoning in a drying kiln we built in the basement. As a result, we have managed to reserve most of the \$51,000 set aside in 2021 for the siding project. Labor, except for licensed electricians and other requirements, is all volunteer. We welcome the Mayor and Aldermen to visit the site, especially after 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings, when the volunteers are working.

On May 21st, a gift of replacement seats arrived from the Tivoli Theater. Again, volunteers, including Walden employees Bobby Higgins, Gerald Hensley, and David Lockhart who came to help on their lunch hour, carried all the seats onto the Auditorium stage where they are stored until the old seats can be removed and the floor refinished. New seating and fresh floors are the next big steps we will take.

John Stone, a Scout in Troop 176, has submitted plans for his Eagle Project at WRCL, and the project has been approved by the Board of Directors. He will clean up the area around the old Boy Scout Cabin that had been camouflaged at the back of the property by trees, weeds and brush. His plans include building a deck over the foundation, improving the landscaping, and adding seating. He anticipates completion by the *Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Contest* on October 10 & 11, 2025.

On April 17, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner preceding the second Quarterly Membership Meeting of the 2025. We could not have made the progress we have in the last four years without the services of such dedicated Walden residents. Membership in the Walden's Ridge Civic League is open to all residents of Walden's Ridge. We invite everyone to join and to volunteer.

Karen Stone, WRCL Publicity & Membership Chair