

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON

ASSOCIATION MEETING

May 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the President, Carol Neubert. She thanked Aspen and Butternut Lanes for the refreshments. The Association then observed the customary moment of silence.

Minutes. The minutes of the April 5, 2017 Association meeting were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report. Beverly Bowman presented the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as presented. We currently have a checking account balance of \$4325.12, and a balance of \$5033.14 in the CD. The full report has been filed with these minutes in the Library.

Management Report.

Thom Wright provided an update on the progress of the Master Plan. We are continuing to develop both physical and financial plans, and are about 60 days behind our original schedule. We expect a new feasibility study in July which will include better metrics, e.g., how much long range debt should we carry.

Thom introduced Julie Robbins, our new activities coordinator. She will be working part time to assist with resident activities, and on coordination between the two campuses

President's Update

Outdoor benches have been refurbished and replaced, with the exception of the bench near Bridge Road, which was beyond repair and will be replaced.

Trail improvement is in full swing. Volunteers from the Broad Brook Coalition have been extremely helpful in moving the work along. It should be completed very soon - in time for a formal opening next week with refreshments and an opportunity for a test run.

Voting for Readers' Choice is going on now at the gazettenet.com website. Michael Harvey is hoping for a good turnout from us to continue our record as Best Retirement Community.

Lathrop will have a handsome Pierce Arrow to march with in the Pride Parade this Saturday (if it doesn't rain). There will be room for 5 or 6 passengers. Sign up with Sarah.

Contributions to the dog park stand at \$2140, about \$1000 short of what is needed. Gifts will be accepted until May 30. Write your check to Lathrop, designate it for the dog park, and send it to Frank Sansom.

Carol introduced the Activities and Committee Guide, a new communications medium. In this initial edition the Neighborcare Committee and the Butterfly Garden were inadvertently omitted. The Guide will be revised regularly.

In order to introduce Lathrop Board members to the community, an event is being planned for July. Board members will tour the campus, including the community garden and the improved trail. The tour will include 3 or 4 townhomes, and residents are asked to volunteer their homes for inclusion in the tour.

Open Floor for the Good of the Community

Cynthia Stanton described a summer program at the Jackson Street School designed to encourage childrens' reading. It will include books for children to take home over the summer.

Judy Hyde announced an upcoming event for the whole community sponsored by the Neighborcare Committee to both introduce the community to the services the committee offers, and to recognize the work of those who have contributed their time and effort to the committee's initial year.

Alex Neubert reported that the energy audit by a Kendal representative will take place next Tuesday and Wednesday, May 9 & 10.

Stan Maron mentioned the Northampton demonstration on May Day in support of immigrants' rights. He feels that we need a coordinator to inform us of and encourage us to attend functions like these. He also feels it is time seriously to investigate solar panel installation.

Stacy Carmichael asked Mike Strycharz to explain how our emergency systems work. Mike said that there are two systems: the pull cords and the pendants. During Sarah's working hours, she will respond by calling the resident. If there is no response she will call 911. During hours when Sarah is not here, the signal will automatically go to the 24-hour desk in Easthampton, where the same procedure will be followed. The area covered by the pendant is the interiors and grassed areas of the campus, and does NOT include the community garden or the hiking trail. Residents using those areas are encouraged to carry a cell phone to call 911 in an emergency. Smoke alarms are hardwired and have a toggle to turn off and on; carbon dioxide detectors do have batteries and maintenance will change them if they start to beep.

Joe Kulik asked when repair of winter damage to lawns and plantings would take place. Mike replied that they should happen within the next few weeks.

Election of Officers

Before moving to the election of officers Carol recognized the service of lane representatives, who are important as liaison between the lane residents and the Council. She recognized in particular Audrey Bozzo and Judy Buhner who have not only been lane reps this year, but have also served as co-chairs of the Program committee. Other lane reps recognized were Michael Schwartz, Stacy Carmichael, Arlene Jennings and Bob Comerford. She also thanked the other

three officers of the Association – David Morrissey, Bev Bowman and Joan Davis - with letters of recommendation should they seek other employment. These were greeted with hilarity and are attached to these minutes.

The nominating committee, composed of Judy Buhner, Peg Rasmussen, and Hans van Heyst, had presented at the April Association meeting a slate of the following for Association officers in 2017-2018: President, Dave Morrissey; Vice President, Helen Engeseth; Secretary, Joan Davis; Treasurer, Bev Bowman.

Carol called for, and received, approval of this slate.

Carol then announced the lane representatives for next year, chosen by each of the lanes from among their number. Aspen: Joe Kulin, Butternut: Helen Armstrong, Crabapple: Joan Laird, Dogwood: Sheila Lyford, Firethorn: Marlisa Parker, Goldenchain: Cynthia Stanton, Jack Hjelt, Hawthorn: Bob Comerford.

A Celebration of Community

Carol, referring to a book she has recently read entitled “This Chair Rocks,” feels that an important task for us is to burst the bubble of ageism. She described ageism as a judgmental construct that can have a negative effect on how we age and interact with our world. It can restrict activities and limit who we are. The commonly-used category 50+ assumes we are all the same – old. She feels that at Lathrop we do a good job of bursting the bubble.

She presented the results of the Cartoon Caption Contest, all of which were about being active and moving forward. She then repeated for us a presentation she had made recently to the Lathrop Board detailing our numerous activities over the past year, with improved communication and stewardship of the environment as our twin goals. She demonstrated how one initiative led to another, with resulting participation by at least 52 residents. That, she said, is community.

Carol then asked residents to highlight people who have made contributions to community this year. A resident thanked Carol for her humor, wit and sense of fun, plus her willingness to answer questions and not ignore people. Applause greeted this remark. Caroline Zavarine remarked that English Country Dancing had been a real treat, and urged others to try it. Audrey Bozzo said that Judy Buhner had filled all the gaps in Audrey’s leadership of the Program committee; Joan Wofford noted that Audrey herself has been filling gaps for years and years.

Don Levitan asked for, and received, a hand for Sarah Gauger. Judy Hyde thanked Janet Price for her initiative in getting the soil tested in the community garden. Cynthia Stanton thanked Peg Rasmussen for the Butterfly Garden. Cynthia Nyary thanked Bob Buhner for his exemplary bartending and for his good humor in everything he does.

Bev Bowman was grateful for Healthy Bones and Balance, and noted that Carol had been trained and serves as a substitute convener for the group. Carol was described as a tough but good taskmaster in this role. Stacy Carmichael commended Gillian Morbey and June Morse for their

services in the library. Michael Schwartz noted the contributions of Hans van Heyst in organizing the Property committee.

Judy Buhner was grateful for all of the volunteer help she has had cleaning up after the many events. We are now well trained to pick up chairs, clean the kitchen, etc., and this has certainly helped to build community. Nick's good tempered nature was mentioned.

Miriam Moss said, of Carol, that she was always helping, always on top of things. She wonders where Carol gets her energy, and thanked her for all she has done. The group rose in a standing ovation. Carol herself thanked a patient husband. And David Morrissey then presented Carol with a check in recognition of her exemplary term as President of the Association.

Finally, we gave ourselves a hand for doing well in bursting the ageism bubble. As a token of office, the Lathrop master key was passed from Carol to David. The meeting adjourned *fifteen minutes early*.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary



To Whom It May Concern:

It is without hesitation that I recommend Beverly Bowman for whatever financial position for which she wishes to apply. For the past two years Beverly has been the keeper of funds and distributor of same for the Lathrop Northampton Residents' Association. She has proven herself to be capable and reliable.

Beverly keeps meticulous financial records and is careful to safeguard those records. Each month she submits to me a written digital report to be included in the PowerPoint presentation at the Association or Council meeting. Although she assures me that this report is in a standard format, I am quite certain that it includes some sort of encryption software since it takes me a significant amount of time to translate it to a format that is readable in PowerPoint.

In an effort to maintain more thorough and accurate records, Beverly instituted a reimbursement form. It falls somewhat short of having to sign it in blood to get money from the Association, but it does take steps to ensure that funds are not misused.

Although the budget for the Association is not large, Beverly has taken her position as treasurer very seriously. Each month she excitedly reports on the \$.04 of interest earned on our bank account, and her presentation is such that we all get excited, too.

It has been a pleasure working with Beverly, and the residents of the Lathrop North campus are appreciative of her good work.

Carol P. Neubert
North Campus President



To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great hesitation that I recommend Joan Davis for whatever writing position for which she wishes to apply. The hesitation comes from the fact that we, of the Lathrop North Residents' Association, do not want her to leave for another position. Joan has proven herself to be a creative and careful chronicler of our Association and Council meetings.

Joan sits through meetings where agendas cover a range of topics, participants sometimes react to those topics through stream-of-consciousness discussions, and decisions have multiple interpretations. She then produces a set of minutes that make the meeting sound well structured, the discussions of the highest level of thinking, and the decisions cogent. Her style is somewhere between journalist and creative, although she has not yet succumbed to 'alternative facts'.

Should Joan wish to continue in the position of secretary of the Northampton Residents' Association, this letter of recommendation should serve as my strong endorsement.

Carol P. Neubert
North Campus President



To Whom It May Concern:

It is with enthusiasm that I recommend David Morrissey for any position he wishes to hold. He has served as Vice-president of the Northampton Residents' Association for the past year and has proven himself a man of mettle.

As Vice-president David has quietly stepped into situations where intervention with finesse has been needed. As a result I have discovered that he sets a stylish table, makes a mean jug of lemonade, and leads a meeting with humor.

David has the attribute of being a life-long learner. This has been evidenced by the fact that he and Sarah have spent hours together as he has endeavored to conquer the three television remotes, to connect the speaker/microphone/sound system, and to control the DVD/Blueray players. He has also spent hours improving his pool-sharking skills, an attribute that will prove helpful regardless of what position he holds.

Initiative is another strength David has demonstrated. Seeing that Sunday afternoons tended to be a blank spot on many calendars, he began the Sunday afternoon movie series, complete with popcorn and candy. Within a short time he added Looney Tunes to the weekly showing, indicating that he fully understands the community within which he lives.

David's keen interest in the workings of Lathrop North and his commitment to making it an even better place to live make it easy for me to write this positive letter of recommendation.

Carol P. Neubert
North Campus President

