

**Northampton Lathrop Residents' Association
Council Meeting
December 9, 2015**

President Carol Neubert called the first annual joint meeting of the Lathrop Resident Associations to order, welcoming our Easthampton neighbors to Northampton. She asked each attendee to introduce his/herself. Following the introductions, the customary moment of silence was observed.

Minutes

The minutes of the Easthampton and Northampton November meetings were approved as presented.

Management Report

Thom Wright presented the management report, noting that we are doing very well on the occupancy front, with 86.1% actually occupied, and 89.7% occupied plus deposits --- and particularly since the 2016 budget is based on an 83% occupancy rate.

December 10 and 11, a Lathrop delegation will visit Kendal on Hudson and Camphill to view mental health neighborhoods and a farm supported community. Progress on the Master Plan includes narrowing by the architects of the charette design ideas from nine to four, and having these reviewed by Cutler to apply general construction costs to each. There was a 51% response to the Master Plan Survey, and supplementary data will be sought to enrich the survey.

President's Remarks

Carol introduced the agenda for this joint meeting. Two subjects have emerged as appropriate topics for joint consideration: lane rep responsibilities and communication issues.

Lane Representative Responsibilities

Carol produced a slide listing possible lane rep responsibilities as a basis for discussion. (a copy is attached to these minutes)

Karen Clark, Easthampton President, suggested that lane reps could be doing more than they currently do -- particularly, could have a larger role in the communication process. However, each lane is different and operates in its own unique way. She is also concerned that being a lane rep is becoming a greater responsibility, and thought perhaps we need more than one lane rep, and/or need to have lane reps meeting to encourage communication among them. She noted the importance for adult well being of the concept of "community," and commented that we talk about community in specifics, but need and overall concept of what we mean by it. Carol noted that interaction among lane reps was important for Northampton, too.

Michael Schwartz described Dogwood's Friday night get-togethers around the picnic table, and their success in integrating new arrivals. He felt, however, that an overall

policy was undesirable and unworkable, for each lane has a different configuration, which yields a unique kind of interaction.

Rob Olmsted introduced the idea of a web of relationships which holds everyone. We need to keep that functional. The list provided characterizes the needs of the community which are logically “lane rep responsibilities.” That is the genesis of this list, but there are many possible ways to carry these out.

Judy Buhner described a list of emergency contacts shared by all residents of Aspen Lane

Returning to the Michael Schwartz’s remark about the uniqueness of each lane, Stacy Carmichael feels that the “lane” is an artificial construct. Firethorn now has 1/3 new residents. When the lane meets it is not a social occasion, and there is little interest in working as a unit. Each resident is individual and wishes to remain so. When Judy Buhner mentioned that all but one Aspen residents were new, Carol suggested that the duties of the welcoming committee might be discussed.

Communication with Newcomers

Deborah Peavey noted that there was considerable overlap between the welcoming tasks of the lane reps and the welcoming committee. She assigns a welcomer to make a first contact with a newcomer, along with the lane rep. Kathy Maloney also has a role, for she sends a notice of who is moving in and when, including the lane rep.

Judy Buhner asked how long a lane rep was expected to serve as a welcomer. Michael Harvey suggested that he or she is a resource for as long as needed. The buddy system works for immediate needs like where to get mail, etc. It was noted that the Resident Handbook is also a good resource, and Kathy Maloney said that she duplicates the “Tips” section for all new residents. Rob suggested that we needn’t worry about redundancies -- the more ways to facilitate communication, the better.

It was suggested that going forward, better communication between the welcoming committee and lane reps is desirable.

General Communications

Carol presented a slide with a draft list of 32 areas of communication and their current distribution . This generated a discussion of possible means of communication in the future. First was a dedicated TV channel, currently feasible in Easthampton, but not here. Carol asked how upset people would be if Easthampton installed this without us. She was reassured by David Morrissey among others that there would be no problem here. He suggested wider use of the monitor we currently have, and again, to not worry about duplication.

The second proposal was to install an interactive website for communicating via the computer, and also accessible from iPad or iPhone (Carol noted that 2/3 of Northampton residents use computers). Kathy Maloney then demonstrated the website which is currently in development, to general approbation.

Inn Concerns

At this juncture, Priscilla Pike pointed out that little that had been discussed at this meeting would be used by residents of the Inn, given the physical and mental limitations of many of them. She identified the need for a memory support unit, and an assisted living unit to serve these special needs. Bob Comerford is also concerned about the amount of memory support now available. They were assured that these are part of the master planning process.

Carol then summarized the meeting, enumerating that we had shared ideas for activities of lane representatives, discussed the support provided new arrivals through our welcoming activities, agreed that we would not complain if Easthampton installed a designated TV channel, and were introduced to the nearly completed Lathrop internal website. She hoped that another joint meeting is in our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary