

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON

ASSOCIATION MEETING

April 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Joan Davis in the absence of President Carol Neubert who is away. The meeting observed a moment of silence, offering fond best wishes for a happy landing to Jeanne Ammon, Laura Contuzzi, and Mel Grant who have moved to the Inn and to Joan Maiocco who is at Linda Manor.

Joan introduced and welcomed Carol Werba who is Crabapple Lane's newest resident. Joan thanked Aspen and Butternut Lanes for the delicious and sustaining refreshments they provided for the meeting. And she congratulated the three brave members of Team Lathrop who competed at the Northampton Education Fund Spelling Bee – Helen Armstrong, Judy Hyde and Carol Werba - for their splendid performance. "No Lathrop team", she said, "has ever gone so far."

The minutes of the Association meeting of February 3, 2016 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report Bev Bowman reported that the Association's finances are in good shape. Our checking account had a balance of \$4,219.05 as of April 6 and the treasury also contains a CD valued at \$5,011.55 as of March 31.

Management Reports – see attached

Nominating Committee Report The Nominating Committee - Judy Buhner, Nancy First, and Don Maiocca - presented the slate of officers of our Association for the coming year:

President - Carol Neubert
Vice-President - David Morrissey
Secretary - Joan Davis
Treasurer - Beverly Bowman

Members will vote on this slate at the Annual Meeting on May fourth.

Lane Representatives During the past few weeks each lane has met to elect their Lane Representative for the coming year:

Aspen - Judy Buhner
Butternut - Helen Armstrong
Crabapple - Dave Morrissey
Dogwood - Michael Schwartz
Firethorn - Stacy Carmichael
Goldenchain - Arlene Jennings
Hawthorn - Bob Comerford

The Lathrop Community Fund Peter Van Pelt, chair of the Philanthropy Committee urged residents to consider donating to this umbrella fund, which is designed to enhance the sense of community that exists among residents and staff at Lathrop. Activities at Lathrop which the fund helps support include "Music Matters", the Land Conservation Fund, the Staff Development Fund, and the Resident Association Funds. Peter emphasized that givers remain anonymous and that no list of donors will be published.

Improving Communication – Need for a larger bulletin board At the last Association meeting two solutions were suggested: One is to move the bulletin board into the next room (the "living room"). The other is to have a bulletin board on the mail room wall where one currently resides, but to expand it to fill the entire wall by removing the electronic monitor adjacent to it..

After considerable discussion, it was apparent that the second option was by far the one most appealing to residents. Speaking for the group, Joan Davis suggested the following as the consensus:

"Residents enjoy the living room the way it is now and do not want any changes that will spoil its ambience."

"A larger bulletin board should be installed in the mail room, to be located on the wall currently occupied by the present bulletin board and the electronic monitor."

The fate of the monitor is still to be decided. Among the suggestions made at the meeting were: 1. Install it over the mail boxes or cubbies.

2. Put it out on the porch. 3. Put in down in the game room. 4. Put it in a closet and, if it is missed, find another place to install it.

Comments and Announcements from the Floor

Peg Rasmussen needs help in the Butterfly Garden where digging and planting will start up almost immediately. Sign up in the mail room to put in a day or two's work during the high seasons - April and October- and/or or to take on a weekly chore – watering, weeding, etc. during the growing season. The birds and the butterflies – and those precious bees - will thank you.

Mary Parker suggested that the exercise programs at Lathrop might be expanded to include a walking group for those with disabilities. Anyone interested in joining such a group should get in touch with Mary.

Judy Hyde, who enjoys the conviviality of our Wednesday lunches, suggested that more residents give it a try. Good food and good company.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Carmichael, Secretary for the day

