

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON

**ASSOCIATION MEETING**

May 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the president, Carol Neubert, with thanks to Crabapple Lane for the splendid refreshments. The group observed a moment of silence.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the April 6, 2016 Association meeting, prepared by Stacy Carmichael as Secretary pro-tem, were accepted by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report.** Beverly Bowman presented the Treasurer's Report, attached to these minutes, which was approved. Bev also mentioned donations to the Community Fund Drive, which is currently underway, as the source for most of the Association's funds. She urged that residents contribute to the fund and earmark some for the Association, so that we can continue to underwrite the well-rounded activities of our Program committee, and other projects as well.

**Management Summary.** Thom Wright presented a brief update of the master plan, and suggested this as an appropriate topic for the Fireside Chat that he will hold this Friday at 11:00.

Kendal at Home has conquered all the hurdles and is now an official member of Kendal. They still plan to come to Lathrop, and will be working with focus groups over the summer to decide the most appropriate products to offer here.

John Diffey, recently retired Kendal CEO, will meet with Lathrop residents next Tuesday, May 10 at 2:00 to share his reflections on his years of service. Since he is passionate about staff development, an event in June will honor him with the establishment of a People Training Fund of \$150,000. Easthampton has approved a contribution of \$500 to this fund.

Lathrop occupancy in March was 81%, better than the 78% budgeted. Turnovers were a net 15, 7 of which were in Northampton. We have had 17 deposits so far this year, and 10 move-ins. Details are available in the resource book in Sarah's office.

**Open Floor for the Good of the Community.** Since she tries to have some kind of educational element in each Association meeting, Carol presented "Journeys with Judy," a highly entertaining and extremely useful slide show of a recent exploration of the Pioneer Valley bus system by Judy Buhner and Carol. Judy demonstrated how to acquire a senior bus pass, how to identify "our" bus (R44) which passes by on Bridge Road at hourly intervals, has a route containing many useful stops, and takes only 20 minutes to arrive back at Lathrop from the Academy of Music bus stop. All for 60 cents. They also acquired a 10 cent transfer card and ventured to Amherst on B42 (back on B43). Carol thanked Judy for starring in the show, and, in answer to audience questions, said that most of the busses are hourly, that they stop at designated stops only and that the big busses are "kneelers," equipped with tie-downs for wheelchairs and spaces for walkers. The slide presentation received a hearty round of applause .

In response to the discussion at the April Association meeting, Carol reported on progress in modifying the entryway and mail room of the Meeting House. The computer screen is now in the conference room.

She has appointed an ad hoc committee to decide what should go into the mail room. Then painting and new carpeting can begin, and the area should look spruced up.

Resident parking should be in garages or individual driveways, and the guest parking designated in each lane should be reserved for guests.

Carol has a master key which will open a residence for a person who has lost or misplaced his key. She also added a reminder about the donating to the Lathrop Community fund. And she cautioned residents to be wary of scamming, which has happened on both campuses within the month. Do not give any numbers to anyone over the phone, and report any instances which do occur.

Lawn care goes through phases in resident preference, and it is time to look at this again. Currently, we are using fertilizer which is 50/50 organic/non-organic, and will use no herbicides or pesticides this summer. Meanwhile, Carol will appoint an ad hoc committee to research and recommend a solution which will achieve an appropriate compromise between those who favor only organic additives, and those who prefer a more professional-looking lawn. Cynthia Nyary remarked that crabgrass seems to be minimal this year, and Helen Armstrong offered tips on dealing with crabgrass. There was consensus on appointment of the committee, and Carol asked interested persons to sign up. She seeks a well-rounded, representative committee, but not of unwieldy size.

Mike Strycharz announced that mulching around the front of residences will be done sometime in May, will be blown in with a blower, and will be a neutral, undyed brown. He asked residents to mark a map if they did **not** want mulching or edging.

Audrey Bozzo announced that the Program committee will sponsor a Memorial Day cookout on May 25, contributing hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and dessert. She asked the people sign up in the mail room to contribute other food.

Helen Armstrong will lead a group from 2:00-4:00 today to pull and bag the invasive plant, garlic mustard, wherever it may be found on campus. Additional volunteers are most welcome, and will be served tea at 4:00 in appreciation for their efforts.

Lloyd Fark asked if residents were not paying the cost of the master plan, since administrative salaries are in part for this. And he remarked that in the men's group, 13 participants were pretty negative, and not one supportive of the master plan. Carol suggested that all attend Thom's fireside chat this Friday at 11:00, which will feature discussion of concerns about the plan. She added that we do pay staff salaries for this kind of service. Fran Volkmann thought that good planning was necessary, and that she was glad to have a staff looking forward to the future. She also has a sense about what concerns the men's group, but she urged that those concerns are not productively addressed in little groups, but by all of us. We need to work on a process that is inclusive. Her remarks were greeted with applause.

Michael Harvey asked that residents vote for Lathrop as Best of the Valley in its category in the Gazette poll, at Gazettenet.com. He reminded the group that the Pride Parade is this weekend.

Don Levitan, regarding planning decisions, said he appreciated people speaking out. He believes decisions should rise from a consensus of a meeting of residents in the Quaker tradition, not the Board

or the Master Plan task force. Joan Wofford noted that the Friday fireside chat is not a scheduled meeting, but we can make progress through discussion there. Fran Volkmann added, the more talk the better. Cynthia Nyary suggested that a future Association meeting might be set aside just for discussion of the master plan.

**Election of Officers.** Carol recognized the service of Association officers in 2015-2016, presenting each of them with Lathrop notecards designed by members of the art group and produced by Hans van Heyst.

The following slate of officers was elected by consensus:

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

The lane representatives for 2016-2017, elected by each lane, were announced:

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

Carol noted that the above officers play visible, obvious roles. There are many others who also quietly make contributions to the community, among them Bette Barto, who removes the yellow mail flag at the end of each day; Dave Morrissey, who gives us Sunday movies, and who provided the coloring station in the sitting room; Gillian Morbey, who is a mastermind at suggesting where to make donations; Bob Buhner, who can be relied upon to bring dancing bears to parties; Patricia van Pelt, who shared Easter decorations in the Meeting House; Daphne Stevens, who, upon spying strangers eating their lunch on the curb, provided chairs for them.

She then asked for a second moment of silence to contemplate other such gifts to the community, and to then share these with the group. Audrey Bozzo asked that we recognize the contribution of the Art group for monthly changes in sitting room exhibits; Alex Neubert noted that we are good at picking up after ourselves as willing volunteers for clean-up duty at Meeting House occasions; Peg Rasmussen is grateful for the loyalty of butterfly gardeners.

Carol reminded the group that dates of Association meetings for the coming year will be posted in the mail room, and suggested that information about these and other meetings may be found on our website: *lathropres.org* and also on the Lathrop home page.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary

