

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON
COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2016

Carol Neubert called the meeting to order, welcoming Council members to the new year 2016-2017. She asked old and new members to introduce themselves. The customary moment of silence followed.

Minutes The minutes of the Association meeting of May 4, 2016 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report Bev Bowman reported a balance of \$3744 in the Association checking account. She distributed copies of the reimbursement form to be used for Association expenditures, noting that prior approval for expenditures was required from the President or Treasurer for requests up to \$250, and of the Association itself for expenditures in excess of that figure. Helen Armstrong commented that Deborah Perry could certify Lathrop's NGO status, making substantial purchases tax free.

Ongoing Business

Carol reported on various items of old business as follows:

1) The **entryway ad hoc committee** to improve the entrance and mail room of the Meeting House met on June 7. All residents had been canvassed for their reaction to the committee's plans, and there was little comment. The committee has proceeded to make its recommendations, and the upgrade should take place in the near future.

2) The **lawn care ad hoc committee** has a June 10 meeting scheduled with Mike Strycharz. It will prepare a comprehensive plan for fertilizing and landscaping which will be presented at the November Association meeting, so that a firm plan is in place before the next landscaping season. Carol agreed to post the members of this committee. The question of whether this should be a permanent committee was raised, but Carol said that this already exists in the property committee, of which Hans van Heyst is the Northampton member.

3) Carol announced that, in honor of John Diffey, Kendal has established a **professional development fund in the health care field**, and has asked each affiliate to contribute. Medical personnel of all kinds in a booming health care environment need training to attune them to the emerging older clientele. In a similar vein, the Lathrop Academy seeks to sensitize our staff to these issues. Carol suggested that we meet Easthampton's contribution with one of our own - \$500 to the Diffey Fund and \$500 to Lathrop Academy. After a considerable discussion on the pros and cons of training programs, it was the sense of the Council that these amounts were appropriate, and the matter will be included in the agenda of the August Association meeting.

4) The **sound system** in the meeting room has been installed and is working. The headsets are being used, and were paid for by Lathrop funds and individual donations. We now need to replace two microphones and amplifiers, at a projected cost of \$3,371. The question is where to find the money. We can request that Lathrop pay the whole amount, but would have to wait until money becomes available; we could split the cost, using Association funds for part of the cost; or we could ask for donations from the community. Audrey Bozzo commented that a specific request for voluntary contributions for a specific purpose has worked well in the past. We agreed to send out a request for

voluntary contributions made directly to the Association for the purchase of new microphones and amplifiers.

5) The statement on **drying laundry out of doors** was reintroduced for approval and inclusion in the Resident Handbook. After a discussion of possible alternative solutions to the problem, the group agreed to hold the paragraph for action at a later time after these alternatives had been explored.

6) Carol reintroduced the **availability of a \$5000 grant** from Kendal for new initiatives and inventive programs inside or outside of the community which involve Lathrop residents. The grant has been used for two years to fund the project to eliminate invasive plants on campus, and it is unlikely that it will be renewed for this purpose a third year. Carol mentioned a possible partnership with the Northampton YMCA, something with children at the Jackson Street school, rain barrels and composters for each lane, and cooperation with the Broadbrook coalition to enhance our hiking trail system. The latter of these suggestions received the most enthusiastic response. Carol asked for other ideas: Bev Bowman would like to see the exercise program broadened; Helen Armstrong suggested providing level walks for handicapped people.

Review and Goals

Since the council has many new members, Carol asked the group to read with her the basic Quaker principles found in the Kendal Values booklet. She reviewed the functions of the lane representatives as well, as an orientation for new Council members.

Carol then gave an evaluation of the Association's goals for 2015-16. The first goal (to improve communication) was approached through the new hearing system; improvement of *The Lamppost*; introduction of the Lathrop website; improvement of the bulletin board; the Residents' Handbook update; Thom's new fireside chats; and rationalization of space scheduling for the meeting house. The success in reaching the second goal (building community) is evident in a long list of new activities and the increased vitality one senses in the Meeting House. An extremely active and inventive Program committee can be thanked for this.

As a goal for 2016-17, Carol suggested that, for one, we consider "aging well through exercise," and that we seek ways to build on our excellent beginning to extend our exercise programs. To start, she suggested a survey of residents' activity levels – to find out what residents can and cannot do, and want or do not want to do - and build our programs on this inventory. This information would also be useful in a grant proposal for, e.g., collaborative activity with the Y or the Broadbrook coalition. Stacy Carmichael thought there is a need for better coordination in scheduling existing programs. Bob Comerford hoped that there would be an outside games program this summer. Carol felt that we should ask the community what other goals we might pursue. Stacy thought that planning for the future of the Meeting House might be undertaken, but Carol pointed out that this was dependent on the financial projections which the Long Range Planning Task Force has yet to receive.

New Business for the Good of the Community

Carol presented a proposal she had received from a group of residents for a neighborcare committee. They would like to organize among residents interested in helping a resource for residents in need of help and would like to survey the residents

about both needs and interest in assisting. This would not only provide a reliable source of assistance, but would ease the lane representative's responsibility to organize help. She recommended that the Council support this committee, and all agreed that it should be established.

Audrey Bozzo, for Cranberry Lane, asked about the policy for planting at lane road signs. (It is necessary to lanes to ask landscapers to do the planting if the lane doesn't wish to do it itself.) Audrey and several other members registered complaints about intermittent and slow Comcast service. Speculation that this is due to old underground cabling led to requests that Comcast live up to its maintenance responsibilities, if this is indeed the problem.

And benches on campus are in very poor shape and need maintenance or replacement. Concern was expressed about logging on the boundary of Lathrop land to the west.

Judy Buhner, for Aspen Lane, said that it is really necessary to have a better method of set-up and take-down for meeting house activities. It cannot be Sarah's job, and volunteer help does not suffice. This is a real need which must be met. She feels, too, that Marketing is overselling what is available in maintenance and other services. What resources are available to new residents who arrive with needs, she asked. Carol responded that Kendal at Home will be available, and that Rod can facilitate finding assistance in the community. She concurred that resources are limited, and agreed to ask Marketing to come and talk about how they represent what is available.

Bob Comerford, for Hawthorn, reinforced Audrey on the condition of the benches. He reported that the current way benches are installed is difficult for people using a walker, and their safety from falls should be a priority. He asked for clarification of the Quaker decision-making process, which Helen Armstrong provided. He also said that people on his lane know each other very well, and agreed that they can aid each other should the need arise, without the lane rep's help.

Michael Schwartz, for Dogwood, asked that we have a printed schedule of maintenance events. He wondered if there would be hanging baskets on the Meeting House this summer (they are on order). He also asked that grass clippings be blown off porches.

Helen Armstrong, for Butternut, reported that the lane was still a bit shaken from its brush with Long Range Planning earlier this year, but were basically happy. They have not identified a bench or meeting place.

Future Events

Carol announced the following events in June:

Thom's Fireside Chat, June 9 at 11:00

Kendal at Home Informational Meeting, June 14 at 11:00

John Diffey's *Reflections* , June 22 at 2:00

The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary

