

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
July 6, 2016

Carol Neubert called the meeting to order, introducing the Lane substitutes for the usual members who were away. Peg Rasmussen was Lane Representative for Goldenchain, Marlisa Parker for Firethorn, and Nancy First for Hawthorn. Carol reported the names of the new residents: Joe and Andrea Kulin of 1 Aspen and Jack and Chris Hjelt of 67 Goldenchain and reminded us to wear our name tags. The customary moment of silence followed.

- **Minutes** The June 8 minutes were accepted with one change: On-going business item 3, 4th sentence was changed to read Audrey (not Carol).
- **Treasurer's Report** Bev Bowman reported a balance of \$4319.38 in the Association checking account. Bev reminded us that some of this is already earmarked for microphones and there was \$87.94 of new expenses that had just come in. There is \$5016.63 in our Florence Bank CD.
- **Thom's Report** Thom reported that current occupancy is above 80.1% (which is above budgeted) with projected occupancy at 88.0%. Thom also reported that that Master Plan Task Force met with CliftonLarsonAllen for preliminary financial projections that included 2 models. One model is what happens if we do nothing and the other model is if "we do it all." This would include memory unit, town home/apartment, hybrid, etc. The next step is for the task force to continue to explore designs, study the market for hybrids, take a virtual tour of PA hybrids, and to explore further education about financing options. An overview will be presented to all residents in July. Kendal at Home will continue to be explored by the Board with input from the two residents' meetings with Lynn. There will be a Firethorn Lane meeting with Thom on July 15 from 1-2 in the Meeting House.

Some questions were raised about the new Property Committee which is in transition from being a Board Committee to a Resident Committee. The purpose is to try to make it more useful and solve problems. The new refurbishing that has happened at #8 Butternut (removing the kitchen wall) has actually also been done at two other residences; one on each campus.

- **On-going business**

Carol reported on various items of old business as follows:

- **Mail Room/Entryway ad hoc committee update:** carpeting and paint has been selected; new coat rack being considered (with old coat rack being stored for times when an extra rack is needed.) New configuration will increase light from the window. Bulletin Board will be doubled.
- **Lawn Care ad hoc committee update:** the following people are on the committee:

Cynthia Nyary	Helen Armstrong	Hans Van Heyst
Miriam Moss	Lloyd Fark	Mary Elizabeth Parker
Janet Price	Mike Stryaharz	Carol Neubert-facilitator

They will be meeting for the second time on Friday, July 8. Mike reported that due to the dry season we have had, he has been able to skip mowing and saved about \$1500 each time to spend on other landscaping projects. Places that need it will be reseeded in the fall when weather is more conducive to growing grass. He also skipped the last scheduled fertilizing due to the dry conditions.

- **Microphones for the Gathering Room update:** The total cost for microphones will be \$3400. So far residents have donated \$525. The remaining \$2875 will need to come from a combination of Lathrop capital funds and our Association funds. The Association share would be \$1437.50 and the expenditure will need to be approved at the August Association Meeting. We thank the residents who have already given and encourage others to please consider a donation so we do not have to deplete our association funds to such a degree. Please make checks out to the Residents' Association and put "microphones" in the memo line.
- **Clothes Drying Statement:** the following was approved for addition to our Handbook: *Drying clothes outside saves energy and money. Temporary clothes bars (racks) on the patio are an acceptable way for drying laundry. Clothes should not be hung from the house itself (rain troughs, etc.) on bushes or trees, nor anywhere at the front of the house.* This statement will be added to our Handbook and given to Marketing.
- **Neighborcare Committee update:** Some surveys have been returned with some residents in favor of such a committee and some not seeing the need for it. The committee would like to get more feedback from the community before proceeding. Lane reps are encouraged to ask residents to fill in the survey. There are surveys in the mailroom and residents are asked to put the completed forms in Judy Hyde's box (#13).
- **RIPS:** The Residential Internal Planning Subcommittee: continues to meet and gather as much information as it can from residents. It is tasked with pulling all this information together so good decisions can be made. July 13 (North) and 14 (East) are the next scheduled meetings with both campuses.
- **Comcast:** The Comcast Internet interruptions are not the fault of Lathrop. Our whole community, both on and off this campus have similar problems. Comcast is just overloaded in this area. We have no control over this.
- **Phones:** It was clarified that Northampton Lathrop residents DO NOT NEED a land line for emergency purposes.
- **Office Coverage:** Sarah will be in the office 5 days a week starting in September. For Sarah's vacation time and Fridays during the summer, Carolyn will be covering for her.
- **Residents' Website:** Remember you need to use a password for contact information. It is password protected.
- **Council Goals:** Approved goals for Council for 2016-2017: **#1** Continue Improving Communication, a goal from this past year and **#2** Earth Care: Increasing Environmental Awareness and Action.

#### **Discussion for the Good of the Community:**

- **Spring Valley** was applauded for its improved work with the community: hanging baskets, lane and entryway plantings. mulching, bush/tree trimming and porch washings. It was noted that there is improved communication with residents and when

asked for special things, they will accommodate if it is within the scope of work being paid for. Requests outside this scope will be sent to Mike.

- **Emergency Alerts:** Lane reps were alerted re Tornado watch and the system worked fairly well. It was suggested that Lane Reps notify Sarah if they are going to be away so calls can be made to another person on the lane.
- **Residents' Handbook Distribution:** So there isn't duplication, Carol will talk to Sarah about the best way to handle the distribution. AC filters, transportation policy, clothes drying guidance will be included in the new handbook and these new pages will be given to those who already have the Handbook.
  - **Request for transportation funding for Lunch Groups from Don Levitan:** Discussion highlighted the following points: 1. There are only two lunch groups now but in the future there could be more and the drain on the Association funds could be significant. 2. The new transportation policy is a fair way to use our transportation resources. The major purpose of Lathrop Transportation is for life support activities: groceries, doctors' appointments, etc. These activities are paid for by all of us and available to all of us. For transportation that is requested by specific individuals or groups for social engagements, it should be the responsibility of those participating to pay the transportation fee. Anyone can hire the van, if it is available, and need to pay \$20 per hour to cover the cost of the driver. 3. Car pooling is always a lunch out option. Groups like Hiking with Hans have set up a simple scale whereby drivers are paid by riders a nominal fee depending on the miles driven.
- **What Else:** There was a comment from a resident who preferred the couch to the chairs in the gathering room. Chairs were deemed safer and easier to get in and out of. It was suggested that art work from our local residents be hung in the Gathering Room and perhaps some of the paintings already hanging there could be stored and used on a rotating basis. Mike reported that the railing at the back of the meeting house would be replaced as soon as needed architect specs could be made. It was suggested to Marlisa that a volunteer party be organized to pull up the multitude of garlic mustard plants on the berm between Firethorn and Goldenchain. Helen announced that Butternut is initiating a pot luck for the Lane on the 3rd Thursday of each month. It was suggested that if you see a dog off leash or an owner or dog walker who doesn't "pick up" that you speak to them directly.
- **Future Events:** Lane Reps were asked to follow-up with neighbors about:
  - Fireside Chat with Thom: July 7 at 11 am in Gathering Room
  - Quakerism July 26 at 9:30 in Mt. Tom Room; van provided
  - Senior Pass for PVRTA bus August 2, van provided. Watch for a Journeys with Judy trip sometime after August 2.
  - 2 new couples: PLEASE wear your name tags

**Next Association Meeting:** August 10 in Meeting House; refreshments provided by Dogwood Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlisa Parker, secretary substitute