

NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
July 7, 2018

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Council members attending

Dave Morrissey, President
Helen Engeseth, Vice President
Dale LaBonte, Treasurer & Crabapple representative
Arlene Jennings, Secretary
Bob Buhner, Aspen
Cynthia Nyary, Butternut
Shelia Lyford, Dogwood
Carol Neubert for Marlisa Parker, Firethorn
Jack Hjelt, Goldenchain
Philip Eck for Bob Comerford, Hawthorn

Council members not attending

Marlisa Parker
Bob Comerford

Staff attending

Thom Wright, Executive Director
Rob Olmsted, Director of Wellness & Care Coordination

Visitors

Warren Hammack, Aspen

Moment of Silence. President Dave Morrissey called the regular monthly meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a moment of silence.

Comings & Goings. Arky Markham of 43 Dogwood died June 11, just ten days before her 103rd birthday
(<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gazettenet/obituary.aspx?n=rose-markham-arky&pid=189286297>).

We also lost Janet Price of 31 Crabapple on June 24.
(<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gazettenet/obituary.aspx?n=rose-markham-arky&pid=189286297>).

Helen Armstrong returns home today to 13 Butternut following surgery and recovery care.

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Marjorie Ewing of 18 Butternut remains for now at the Center for Extended Care at Amherst.

Rowena and Gary Roodman moved on June 28 into 25 Crabapple, the former home of Audrey Bozzo.

Edie Denney, Marlisa Parker's sister, will move into 6 Aspen on July 31.

8 Butternut and 60 and 62 Goldenchain are under contract. There is interest in 14 Butternut. 43 Dogwood was cleared today for work to begin there.

Shout outs. A big thank you to all who helped put on the 90's birthday party. And to Mike Strycharz for the recently completed painting on Shallowbrook and parking lot surfaces as well as the mulching and pruning of the townhome beds.

A big shout out to Bonnie for her wonderful support was offered in the discussion of Meeting House events.

Minutes from 6 June 2018. Approved.

Treasurer's Report (and other financial matters). Three reimbursements brought the checking account balance to \$7,050.09. The 15-month "Bump Up" CD earned interest of \$6.01 for a balance of \$5,079.13.

Dave reported that from the contributions to the Lathrop Community Fund, the Northampton Association would receive \$4,905 plus \$1,960 for wellness activities and equipment.

Thom Wright noted that donations can be made to the Community Fund at any time in the year.

An ad hoc committee will be formed to manage the Wellness Fund. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dave Morrissey.

Thom announced that there will be money available for individual lane meetings with the Paradise landscape designers. The cost is \$150/hour. Meetings can begin in the fall when the Paradise schedule clears. The design plans for each lane need to be complete for addressing emergencies and for refurbishments of townhomes.

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Landscaping Report. Residents can read the report in a binder that is in the lobby. There is also a copy in the office.

Phase 1 of the new landscaping plan has begun with the removal of trees between Butternut and Shallowbrook. Clearing will continue between Butternut and the Blue House, at specific sites on Firethorn, and of one tree behind 69 Hawthorne.

Larson is removing trees. Duffy-Willard will be taking out stumps. Spring Valley is doing the replanting (they have the equipment), and Paradise City will monitor progress. Replanting will most likely begin in September.

Thom explained that priorities for removals and replanting are 1) safety and 2) privacy. While there are more funds available for landscaping now, there is no decision yet as to when removals and replacements will occur beyond Butternut and Firethorn.

Past work orders for trees are also being fulfilled now.

Management Report. Overall occupancy is now 92% but with current sales will soon reach 98-99%.

The Master Plan task force is currently testing the financial model, as well as revisiting and revising the plan. The Meeting House is also under consideration with work to begin next year. Lathrop does not now expect to acquire more land.

There are three or four candidates for Human Resources Director. Interviews will begin at the end of July.

The sprinkler system is 90% operational. Much of the system operates during the night so is not seen by residents. Residents who know theirs is not working should notify the office.

The City of Northampton requires the guest suite in the Blue House to have a second egress. The space must therefore be redesigned, and construction work cannot begin before September or October when Bonde's schedule for our refurbishments eases. Scheduling other work at the Blue House depends on completion of the guest suite.

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FOLLOW UP/STATUS OF PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Trail. The last big rain brought some erosion along the trail, particularly at the new retaining wall on the west trail. The contractors are making repairs today.

Once the cost of the west trail work was paid, \$800 remained of the grant money. Dave has asked for authorization to apply that amount to further trail improvements.

Lathrop Policy on Private Caregivers. Rob had no news on the subject. He will be meeting with residents.

Development of Landscaping Policy. Fran Volkmann and her committee are revising the policy. The committee consists of Barbara Walvoord; Judy Bruder and Daphne Stevens from Northampton; Alice Richardson and Gene Sielski from Easthampton; Hans Van Heyst, Jim Dowell, Karen Clark, and Fran from the Property Committee; and Mike Strycharz and Suzie Dickson Moyer from staff.

Shallowbrook Drive/Bridge Road intersection improvements. The city has not responded to our requests for greater safety measures. Thom will contact the city once again. It is also expected that there will be a letter on the subject to the editor of the *Gazette* published soon.

Speeding on Shallowbrook. The new painting may help. Bob Buhner has followed up with the police department for support but expects none.

NEW BUSINESS

Procedures for Expenditures of Association Funds. Dale will develop a procedure for granting the use of Association funds. She would like to have two or three more residents join her in that work.

Elections. It has long been the policy for the Lathrop Community not to invite individual candidates to speak on campus. However, individual residents may do so, and interested candidates are welcome. We might invite all candidates for an office to hold a forum here, and the candidates could decide whether to attend. In no case are candidates endorsed by Lathrop.

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There will be a van to our polling place at Jackson Street School on primary election day, September 4, 2018. Scheduling details will be posted.

Security. Recently two men carrying guns (probably rifles) were seen walking off-trail across our trail into the Wilbur property. Thom will handle having our property posted.

In case of a perceived security threat, the current procedure, depending upon urgency, is to call 911 (emergency), the police business line (413 587 1100), or the main desk at Lathrop Easthampton.

The Fire Department has access to emergency keys. However there needs to be follow-up with the Fire Department. In a recent case they arrived at a residence with the wrong key.

In case of an emergency need to enter a home, the Association President also has a master key.

Volunteer Support. More volunteers are needed to help the Program Committee with events at the Meeting House, particularly in the kitchen. As a priority, residents who can operate the dishwasher are needed. When there are not enough workers, disposable paper products rather than china will have to be used and then taken to the transfer station on Locust St. Sign up sheets will be posted, and volunteers will be welcomed.

Meeting House Improvements. Inform Dave of your priorities.

LANE REPS: QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Firethorn residents are concerned about talk of development of a new trail in the woods behind the gardens/dog park, Firethorn, and Goldenchain. They note the importance of establishing a process for discussion, decision making, and planning.

Butternut Lane residents request no more impatiens be planted at their lane sign. Cynthia Nyary is happy to see residents come by her house on the way to the gardens but using the walkway and not the lawn, please.

Goldenchain expressed appreciation to Rob for his work.

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Crabapple requested a robocall be set up for calendar updates and last-minute announcements, e.g., trash pickup, tree removal, application of Roundup and other toxins. Lathrop is studying the process.

Next Association Meeting

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 10:00

Catering by Butternut at 9:30

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