

**NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 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
Bette Labier for Cynthia Nyary, Butternut
Shelia Lyford, Dogwood
Marlisa Parker, Firethorn

Council members not attending

Jack Hjelt, Goldenchain
Cynthia Nyary, Butternut

Staff attending

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

Visitors

Fran Volkmann

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. Bette Barto is moving to Christopher Hill in Northampton on December 6. Dana Wright has moved to Linda Manor's Memory Unit. She looks forward to receiving visitors.

Our deepest sympathies are sent to Pat and Andy Walsh whose son has died.

Susan Bastek has recently moved to 43 Dogwood. Nancy Nowak will arrive at 14 Butternut on December 6.

Homes that are vacant but under contract are 8 Butternut, 31 Crabapple, 38 Dogwood, 71 Hawthorn, and 72 Hawthorn.

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Of Interest. Joan Wofford has recently returned home from hospital. Jupe Gleason is also now home from hospital. Peg Rasmussen is in a rehab facility in the area but is not yet ready to receive cards or visitors. Bob First is at Linda Manor.

Shout-outs. Sarah Blum's beautiful presentation on her husband and his art was widely appreciated.

Brown Bag gatherings have been a hit, with ten to twenty residents coming to the Meeting House for lunch on Wednesdays.

Hearty thanks to the kitchen staff Julie, Alyssa, and Tim, as well as to Bonnie and Sarah for our delicious Thanksgiving Luncheon. To Judy and Bob Buhner and Carol Czerapowicz for managing our recent wine and cheese party. To Marilyn Guzic who spends a day each month in Northampton and arranges our transportation and event tickets. To Judy Hyde et al for creating what may become a tradition, the pot luck luncheon on Thanksgiving Day.

We appreciate the ongoing hard work of Fran Volkmann and her Fitness Committee. They will soon visit the facilities of a nearby vendor to view and test a range of equipment before making their buying decisions.

Carol Neubert has once again arranged an envelope stuffing event for Habitat for Humanity.

Mike Stevens has organized a Friday morning poker game in the library. Mike seems a formidable organizer and opponent. Fortunately for other participants, they play for red, white, and blue chips.

We are grateful for the efforts of our Eliminating All Toxins (EAT) Committee who met recently with Thom Wright and Mike Strycharz.

Minutes from the Association meeting on November 3, 2018, were approved with one correction. The EAT committee has seven members.

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Treasurer's Report

Free Business Checking

November beginning balance	\$8,267.05
Income	\$90.00
Expenses	\$270.78
Balance	\$8,086.27

15 Month "Bump Up" CD

November 2018	Amount
Interest	\$6.25
Balance	\$5,111.14

Income is from a room donation and payment for drinks. Expenses are for supplies, party goods, the butterfly garden, and a memorial donation for Jane Bowne. The Association will be receiving \$100.00 for the referral by resident, Marlisa Parker, of Edie Denny who has moved to Lathrop.

Management Report, Thom Wright. Occupancy is quite healthy on both campuses at 98% overall.

The master planning process is now on financing, with a final presentation to the board expected in February or March. The intention is to cap long term debt at \$20-22,000,000 with short term debt at \$13,000,000 to be covered by the sale of new townhomes.

Landscaping Study. There was a November meeting with the designers who are now completing more detailed drawings. They expect to hold lane meetings in February. New residents requested passing on a message to the designers that they prefer the front lawns not be identical. They were disappointed that they were not consulted about planting in front of their homes.

Landscaping Support Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to assist residents in landscape planning around their homes. Fran Volkmann is the chair with members Joan Cenedella, Helen Armstrong, Daphne Stevens, and Rowena Roodman. Others are welcome to join.

Fitness Committee Activity. Fran, Dale LaBonte, and Carolyn Zavarine are studying equipment to purchase. Bob Comerford and Marlisa are also on the committee.

A series of images of equipment was distributed: treadmill with a low step up, bars on the back for stability, adjustable, and serving a wide range of abilities; an elliptical with a step at the back for ease of access and many adjustments; a StepOne recumbent that can go flat along the ground and with "adjustable

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everything,” allowing for all levels of abilities. It is accessible from a wheel chair. The same is true for the upright bike, the rowing machine, and the functional trainer.

Rob explained that a new fitness employee is in the budget for next year to work fifteen hours a week. The trainer can work with residents in exercise rooms, develop routines for individuals, and ensure equipment is used in a way that is safe and effective.

One council member shared concern about air movement, and heating and cooling in the basement space.

It is not clear that there will be room in the exercise space for our various group classes (Bones and Balance, yoga, tai chi).

Rob announced that there are two candidates for teaching tai chi. Funding by Lathrop is needed for a trial period. Fees would then be paid by participants.

Blue House

There was a meeting with the city last week. It is now anticipated that we will have a guest suite with an emergency door within the house but no other guest use of the remainder of the house. Lathrop residents only will be able to use the first floor but not the upstairs.

New Room Reservation Form. The form lists requirements for cleaning after use of the room. We need to determine how to respond to failure to clean as stated. Suggestions include asking for a deposit, charging a penalty, or not allowing the parties to use the room again. We will wait to have more experience using the form and observing results in order to understand what may be appropriate and effective.

Association Funds Request Form. There has been no negative feedback to date.

Meeting House ad hoc Planning Committee. Dave reported that the committee will begin its work in January, studying functionality and furnishings. Elly Rumelt would like to join the committee.

EAT. Marlisa reported for the committee. They have met with Mike and Thom to discuss fertilizing and notifications to residents. This is the process they have established:

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Campus Communication Process

- A. Subject matter impacting the community as a whole, e.g., fertilizing lawns
1. Residents will be notified.
 - Mike coordinates the lawn care schedule with John Hancock of Spring Valley.
 - Mike or designee (Shannon, Nick, Landscape liaison) will notify the office coordinator (Sarah or Bonnie).
 - Office Coordinator (Sarah or Bonnie) will notify the EAT committee by email.
 - Office Coordinator (Sarah or Bonnie) will put a notice on the Meeting House door and notes in resident cubbies.
 - Office Coordinator (Sarah or Bonnie) will notify Carol Neubert to update Resident Website with a message.
 - Office Coordinator (Sarah or Bonnie) will notify Dale LaBonte to send out a broadcast message on North News.
 2. Changes in plans from Spring Valley will be communicated to Mike or Landscape liaison who will notify the Office Coordinator of the specific change in plans. For example, if weather delays fertilizing then a new date will be provided, with the caveat that if the weather prohibits the application again, then a new date will be communicated to residents through the methods outlined in number 1.
- B. Subject matter impacting specific resident and or lane neighbor(s)
1. Mike or designee will notify the resident(s) directly.
- C. In all cases lane reps will notify people on their lane who do not have email.

Mike explained that scheduling is weather dependent. Once the snow is gone, he schedules application of fertilizer when rain is expected so that the fertilizer will wash into the soil.

The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in the library will be updated and revised to be made user friendly.

The Boston based Toxics Action Center (<https://toxicsaction.org/issues/toxics/>) will have an Internet call-in on December 13. Lathrop hopes to participate.

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More on Communication

Lathrop is studying possibilities for emergency communications including an Internet based notification system, an electronic message board, and emergency broadcast.

A question was raised about restoring the video monitor announcements in the Meeting House. Residents who would like to see this happen should share their thoughts with their Lane Rep.

Association Refreshments. On some lanes there appears to be no enthusiasm to continue the practice. Goldenchain and Firethorn are fine with the current system but suggest there could be less food. There may be a consensus to stop or at least simplify the program. We will try the February, April, and May meetings without refreshments and then assess reactions.

Garden Deer Fence. Work has stopped for winter.

NEW BUSINESS

Programs: Lecture Series on Animal Intelligence. Lou Ratte has proposed a lecture series on Animal Intelligence. She has done a good deal of research on the topic and on possible presenters. The first speaker would be Ben Kilham, Ph. D., who operates the Kilham Bear Center in New Hampshire where for twenty years he has rescued, rehabilitated, and returned bear cubs to the wild. For more information, see <https://kilhambearcenter.org/>.

While the \$750 cost is beyond our usual fee, the program is seen as an opportunity to share the event with a wider public. Council has asked for a formal proposal before committing Association funds. There will also be further discussions in Program Committee. Dave will contact Ellen Ober, his counterpart in Easthampton, about the Easthampton Association contributing. \$250 has already been promised by Sales and Marketing and \$100 by a resident. Edwards Church has offered the space without cost to enable us to offer the program to the public. Concerns about parking suggest also investigating other venues such as JFK Middle School.

The second proposed speaker is Dr. Tom White of Mt. Holyoke College who will present his work on the intelligence of dolphins and the role of experimentation in the study of animal intelligence.

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Lake Schieffelin. The standing water problem behind the home of Shelley and John Schieffelin has been a discussion topic for the Property Committee, and a Civil Engineer will make a study of the site. There is a pump there for now, but regrading will be required.

Employee Appreciation Fund Drive. As of November 29, 31 of 72 occupied Northampton homes had donated, fewer than in Easthampton. The Northampton Residents Association will contribute \$250, as in the past. The drive ends December 10 to give time to allot the money through payroll.

Bob Buhner has a concern that since the money goes through payroll it is taxed, and employees do not receive the full amount donated. Therefore, he recommends the Association should not contribute. He is looking for a solution to assure employees receive the full amount donated. Council will donate this year, but research is ongoing for adjusting the system.

CO monitors in the townhomes have a seven-year limit. A new installation occurs with each refurbishment, so across the campus the monitors have been installed at different times. Advice to residents in case of malfunction is to remove the device from the wall and then remove the battery until help arrives.

Food Bank. Donations are still needed.

Lane Feedback. Goldenchain residents relayed concerns about lawn maintenance with leaves piling up on driveways and porches or blown there by workers, also snowplows tearing up lawns. They also called for clarity about what to expect when considering or preparing to move to Lathrop. For one resident it has for some time been challenging that affordable meals are no longer delivered at dinner time. Two recent arrivals were told that they would have "wood" floors, expected hardwood, and are dismayed by the laminate that is already showing scratches.

Coming Attractions

Holiday Decorating, December 6. All are welcome.

Monthly Luncheon, Winter Warmer, Wednesday, December 12, 12:30 p. m.

Annual Holiday Party, Friday, December 21, 4:00 p. m.

Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, January 2, 10:00 am

Next Association Meeting, Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 am

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