

**NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 2, 2019**

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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  
Marlisa Parker, Firethorn  
Jack Hjelt, Goldenchain

**Council members not attending**

Bob Comerford, Hawthorn

**Staff attending**

Rob Olmsted, Director of Wellness & Care Coordination

**Visitors**

Alaire Rieffel  
Joe Kulin  
Sue Bastek

**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.** Nancy Nowak arrived at 14 Butternut on December 6.

Nancy and Bob First have moved to Linda Manor, as has Dana Wright.

Bette Barto now resides at Christopher Heights on Village Hill.

Jupe Gleason died just before Christmas. We will miss his delightful and helpful presence.

Jen Davis, our new Fitness Trainer, is now on board. Her hours in Northampton will most likely consist of two three-hour sessions each week.

**Of Interest.** Peg Rasmussen has returned from her hospital stay.

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8 Butternut is now under contract.

**Shout-outs.** The beautiful winter scene paintings in our lobby are the work of Shelia Lyford.

Thanks to the Meeting House Holiday Decorating Crew: Jean Miller, Michael Stevens, Libby and Denny Brandt, Judy and Bob Buhner, Carol Czerapowicz, Bonnie, and Sarah.

Thanks also to the folks who set up and cleaned up at the December 7 Wine and Cheese party.

To the December Luncheon crew, our thanks—Bonnie, Sarah, Carol Neubert, and also to Cynthia Stanton for arranging for Telle to be here.

And thanks to the folks who handled the December 21 Annual Holiday Cocktail Party: on set up Judy Buhner, Edie Denney, Ed and Ann Shanahan, Carol Czerapowicz, Bartenders Michael Schwartz and Bob Buhner, and on clean up Bob Buhner, Elly Rumelt, Joan Bernardini, Dale LaBonte, and Pamela White.

**Minutes** from the Association meeting on December 5, 2018, were approved with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report**

Free Business Checking

December beginning balance	\$ 8,086.27
Income	178.00
Expenses	269.05
Balance	\$ 7,995.22

15 Month "Bump Up" CD

December 2018	Amount
Balance	\$ 5,111.14
Interest	6.47
Balance	\$ 5,117.61

Income is from a room donation and drinks at the holiday party.

Expenses are for Wednesday lunch and a \$250 donation to the staff appreciation fund.

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**Management Report, Thom Wright.** Thom reported by email that “the only obvious update is the purchase of the property to the right of Lathrop. At this time, the board will need to decide what to do with it. Likely it will be razed along with the White House we own before June next year to avoid property taxes in 2019.”

Jack observed that seemed someone seemed to be sleeping there nights, so we need to check the locks.

As to the expansion, a “task force meeting is upcoming to review financial scenarios and determine recommendation to the board for number of units, short term and long-term debt.”

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Landscaping Study: Follow Up Lane Meetings with Paradise City.** Dave will follow up with Maggie. They are putting finishing touches on their designs. The schedule for meetings will probably be announced at the February Association Meeting.

Jack suggested scheduling a presentation on the overall design for the benefit of newcomers who were not here for the earlier meetings.

**Emergency Key.** The president always has a master key for all townhomes. In case of the president’s absence, the vice president has the key.

**Blue House.** There is no use of the building now except by facilities for storing tools, and we have no new information.

**Meeting House ad hoc Planning Committee.** Kick off will be the week of January 21.

**Fitness Committee Activity.** Rob reported that the committee will decide tomorrow on the acquisition of new equipment. The purchase will be made soon, but delivery will occur after the space is prepared.

There is some interest in shifting the Ping-Pong and pool tables to what is now the exercise room. Fran Volkman and Mike Strycharz are working on the space layout. There is no information yet on the cost for reconfiguration. We will hear from all stakeholders.

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Council stressed that we also need a plan for removal of the old equipment.

The art room does remain. A consideration is ventilation because mineral spirits are in use there. Lack of a door is not a problem for the artists but may be a question for people using equipment. The light is good. There is a no worry floor that does not need to be protected from spills. It is important to the art group for the sink to remain in place.

**E.A.T. Committee Activity.** The committee is now working on a brochure or handouts on toxins and expects to engage a local expert to speak on organic turf.

**Animal Intelligence Presentation: The Bear Facts.** Easthampton Council is not ready to contribute \$250. They will need the request for funds form completed to explain the benefits of the program.

We still need to find an appropriate space.

**Electronic Message Board.** Sarah and Thom are studying the options. Rob reported that there was a presentation to the Leadership Team in Easthampton on a platform that was developed following 9/11.

There is interest in resuming use of a video monitor in the Meeting House for announcements. The issue is to find an appropriate space since the mail room is too small. Dale suggested a monitor in a Gathering Room window near the entrance might be a solution.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tai Chi Classes** have been considered for some time. Joe Kulin has identified a potential instructor from the Senior Center. Classes would be in the Gathering Room, but we must find a time that works. The teacher is available on Wednesday afternoon. However, that would require adjusting the knitters' schedule to begin at 1:30. There will be discussion in that group.

Joe will ask about a free demo class, possibly on January 16.

Our cost must cover the teacher's fee of \$75 per class. (Yoga teachers receive \$50 per class.) Lathrop may pay \$25 of the fee for the first two 6-week sessions. Dave proposed that Association funds be used to pay another \$25 per class for the first

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two sessions, matching the Lathrop subsidy. Students attending would split the remaining \$25 a week.

Jack suggested an explanatory presentation on yoga, chair yoga, and tai chi for all residents. There seem to be many residents who would appreciate more information on the nature and benefits of these programs.

**DISCUSSION**

**EMT Access.** There have been several recent incidents where EMT personnel could not get access to a home in an emergency situation. Lathrop does not have access to the lock box at the Meeting House, nor do the police. Only the fire department can use the box, and they have not been doing so successfully.

Rob will discuss with Sarah and Thom. This is a serious issue Rob felt Thom should sit down with the head of the Fire Department.

**New fitness trainer, Jen Davis,** was introduced to the group. She will work primarily in the fitness rooms as a personal trainer and will assist with design, installation, and use of the new fitness equipment.

Residents who wish to engage her for a private session will be able to do so at their own cost. She will be available by phone and email, both contacts yet to be assigned.

Jen described her current activity as working especially with injuries, Parkinson's patients, and the aged; and she has recently helped to create a diabetes program for Cooley Dickinson Hospital. She is also trained as an EMT.

She suggests we share our keys with our neighbors to mitigate the key problem.

**Lane Feedback.**

Firethorn and other lanes are concerned about the ineffectiveness and loss of roadside stakes for the snow plow. Many lawns have been damaged. Marlisa said storm drains are being covered by the snow piles rather than cleared in the plowing. Jack is working on strategic and aesthetic placement of large rocks.

On Crabapple Alaire noted the unattractive view from the back of her house and requested feedback and advice from the Paradise City designers.

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There was a question about attending the upcoming Task Force meeting. Rob answered that meetings here are open, and residents generally can attend as observers. There will be a notification to residents about whether observers are invited to this session.

Sue Bastek reported that the Sales department told her she had to have a land line telephone in her home. Marlisa said she had had the same problem. Rob explained that is true in Easthampton, but not in Northampton. Sue will have the line removed.

**Coming Attractions**

Meeting House Undecorating party, January 3 at 10 a. m. All are welcome.

New Resident Reception, January 9 at 3:00 p. m.

Task Force Committee Meeting, January 11. Discussion of the expansion.

Monthly Luncheon, National Pie Day, Wednesday, January 23, 12:30 p. m.

Lathrop Board Meeting, January 29. (The board meets in Easthampton on the last Tuesday of each month.)

Next Association Meeting, Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 a. m.

Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, March 6, 10:00 a. m.