

NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
March 6, 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
Shelia Lyford, Dogwood
Marlisa Parker, Firethorn
Jack Hjelt, Goldenchain
Bob Comerford, Hawthorn

Council members not attending

Cynthia Nyary, Butternut

Staff attending

Rob Olmsted, Director of Wellness & Care Coordination

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. There were no departures last month.

Bob Buhner had a hospital stay but was back with us today seeming utterly chipper.

Mary and Joseph Hirschel from Hadley moved to 8 Butternut on March 1.

There are five townhomes unoccupied but under contract. 72 Hawthorn will have a move in on March 14, 38 Dogwood on April 1, 71 Hawthorn on April 11, 31 Crabapple on June 1, and 41 Dogwood with the move-in date yet to be set. 77 Hawthorn is vacant.

Of Interest. Telle Zoller is now living at The Arbors in Amherst.

Shout-outs. Thanks to Shelley Schieffelin who invited Rutherford Platt to speak on Jane Addams and to Chris Hjelt for organizing the presentation "V-Mail Is Speed Mail."

Thanks to Sheila Lyford for her years of work on the Welcoming Committee and to Chris Hjelt who is taking the reins from Sheila. Chris has organized a team of

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“buddies” who are planning assistance to new arrivals and community development.

Thanks to Carol Neubert, Judy Buhner, and Bonnie Johnson for finding new catering options. The first offering was the wine and cheese party by State Street Deli and Fruit Store. State Street received mixed reviews from the lanes. Feedback is welcome.

Thanks to Bob Buhner for facilitating the move of the pool table to the Blue House.

Thanks to Pamela White for sharing her family’s multi-generational art collection. We appreciate her paintings now hanging in our seating area.

Thanks to Sheila Lyford for “granting temporary asylum” to the refrigerator which is temporarily inhabiting the art room.

Thanks to all who have participated in clearing, cleaning, and reorganizing Meeting House closets: Bonnie Johnson, Judy and Bob Buhner, Daphne and Michael Stevens, and Carol Neubert.

Thanks to Bonnie Johnson, Sarah Gauger, Bev Bowman, Bob Buhner, and Carol Neubert for managing the February 13 Southern Food Luncheon and Quarterly Birthday Party.

Thanks to Phillip Eck, Joan Borgos, Michael Schwartz, Rebecca Wondriska, Richard Hutton, John Cogswell, Elly Rumelt, and Joan Bernardini for managing the March 1 wine and cheese party.

Appreciation was expressed for Mike Strycharz for all that he is handling.

Mateo Rivera was recognized for the skill and helpful attitude he brings to teaching our computer classes and in-home consultations.

Bob Buhner thanks Rowena and Gary Roodman for the loan of equipment and design of exercises to support his recovery from surgery.

Minutes from the Association meeting on February 6, 2018, were approved as previously corrected.

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Treasurer's Report

Free Business Checking

February 2019	
Beginning balance	\$8,066.27
Income	0
Expenses	0
Balance	\$8,066.27

15 Month "Bump Up" CD

February 2019	Amount
Interest 1.49%	\$5.86
Balance	\$5,129.95

Dave reported that we have requested but not yet received reimbursement for \$37.50 for the tai chi introductory class, \$150 for the first six tai chi classes, and \$239.67 for supplies and equipment for fitness training. The funds will come from resident donations that were designated for fitness.

Management Report, Thom Wright

The report was provided in writing as Thom is traveling. The components were:

- 1) Master Plan C for which financial projections are being finalized by Kendal including updated assumptions about townhome entrance fees, monthly service fees, and construction pricing. The projections will be reviewed by the Finance Committee in March. Design Schematics and financial projections will be reviewed by the Task Force in early April before the Board meeting.
- 2) Kendal at Home. Their Life Plan product (Life Plan without walls) covers members' future health care needs. Their board met February 19 and approved expansion into Massachusetts. They will begin their incorporation process as a 501c3. Thom is meeting with Lynn J. Philby, the Executive Director, on March 6 to discuss steps.
- 3) Vitalize 360. This is a method for managing wellness created in partnership by Kendal and Hebrew Senior Life. The program is evidence-based and offers coaching and quantitative data platforms. Thom, Dave, and a group of residents from both campuses have met with the new Executive Director for Vitalize, Rebecca Donato.

A general discussion of various management issues ensued, first about Lathrop's relationship with Kendal. [Lathrop affiliated with Kendal in 2004.] Kendal is in charge of development and is also involved in CEO selection. However, our board is nominated and selected independently from Kendal. Rob encouraged us to speak to

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Frank when he has Northampton office hours if we have questions on the master plan or other Kendal related issues.

Helen asked why we affiliated. In 2004 there was a need for support. We do pay for Kendal programs although we don't always participate in them. Many residents are here because of the relationship with Kendal and because of the lower cost than at other Kendal properties.

Jack asked who has access to the affiliate agreement. Rob replied that the Board has access. Jack would like to see the agreement and is concerned that we lack clarity about our situation vis a vis Kendal and its management. Marlisa requested that a copy of the agreement be placed in our library. Dave will pursue that question.

It was observed that we are, in fact, not a Quaker community. Rob pointed out that we do respect the values.

Bob Comerford stated that the master planning process began January 12, 2012. He would like to see the Council take a more active role in planning. After a broad discussion of the master plan, its implications, and its value Rob again encouraged us to speak to Frank with related questions.

Committee Activity

Committees report to the Council with recommendations and with requests for funds.

Bob Buhner proposed an amendment to the bylaws with respect to committees. Residents on all lanes should review the proposal and offer suggestions or revisions they see as necessary in order to finalize the document during the Annual Meeting, May 1.

1. All committees are 'ad hoc' unless specifically defined to be otherwise.
2. Committees will be structured as follows:
 - Size of committee will be no less than three. No more than seven.
 - A committee chairperson and each member will be identified.

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- A clear definition of the committee's purpose, scope, and authority to accomplish its task will be submitted to Council for review.
- All committee members must be willing to take assignments as defined by the needs of the issue at hand, i.e., all are working members.
- The procedural method for resolution of the issue is defined by the committee and its chairperson.
- The committee will report at every Council and Residents' meeting. Reports will define progress and a projected timeline for the completion of the task assigned.

The **Nominating Committee** for new officers consists of Cynthia Stanton, Michael Schwarz, and Daphne Stevens.

Meeting House Planning Committee. Thom indicates it is unlikely that we will add another story to the building because of the cost. We may expand the footprint so all resident functions can be on the first floor and no elevator needed. Facilities storage and office would be in the basement.

We received a list of Ideas being explored by the committee, but there is no budget for implementation at this time. Suggestions are to consider replacing the light fixtures on the track in the library; to create a contemporary living room in the seating area; in the Gathering Room to remove the sofas, upholstered chairs, end tables with lamps, and clock; to price replacing the high window shades; and to investigate the possibility of changing the chandelier bulbs to LED. Sheila shared her thoughts on the arrangement of furniture in the Gathering Room and seating area. Feedback from the lanes should be shared with Dave.

The committee recommended making more efficient use of the storage closets in the Meeting House, and that has already been achieved.

Finally, the committee suggests that long range planning for the Meeting House should consider achieving LEED certification.

There should be discussions on the lanes on this topic.

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Fitness Committee. They have accomplished the original purpose of understanding needs and purchasing equipment. The question now is whether this should continue as a standing committee. If the group is to continue we need to designate a chairperson. Fran Volkmann and Rowena Roodman were suggested for having been most active.

E.A.T. Committee. Dale reported that the committee is not actively meeting. Thom has agreed to provide materials and advance notice of treatments, but that information will not be available until spring season.

Philanthropy Committee. Jim Dowell of Easthampton is chair. He will be communicating about contributions to the Community Fund.

Joint Music Committee. Audrey Bernstein is now the only representative from Northampton. Dave suggests we find another North resident who is interested in joining.

Joint Property Committee. Northampton needs to identify a replacement for Hans Van Heyst who is retiring from the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Basement exercise space reorganization. We received a report on the full project:

1. Entry hall wall (right side) to be removed from beam/post to end (where wall behind washer/dryer begins)
2. Install stackable washer/dryer in new-built closet
3. Move sink into art room, remove cupboard. This will be an area for changing shoes with bench and storage. No space provided for personal cubbies.
4. Install carpet in entry hall (from leftover stock) with mat runner.
5. Current glass windowed door to be moved and framed to create barrier for art room (noise, solvents, ping pong balls...)
6. Baseboard heater with zone thermostat to be installed in art room
7. Double closet/wall to be removed with 90° stubbed wall and post remaining
8. End wall opposite mirror remains (back of the room to have a full ballet bar and be used for Jen's small classwork.)

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9. Ceiling between current fitness and game rooms will be matched with drywall soffit as outside of door.
10. Carpet remains in game room. Concrete area will have laminate placed from existing stock in maintenance. If necessary there will be black entryway matting under machines.
11. Color to be determined by Jen but likely a preferred yellow.
12. Electrical can be dropped as needed from ceiling and thermostat moved.
13. TV placement will be determined by Jen with resident input based on equipment placement.
14. Install phone and small desk for Jen.
15. Yet to be determined: disposition of games and cabinets

The equipment will be delivered week of March 18. All will be placed in the game room. Once the equipment is installed the remaining work will take place as time and money permit.

Rob recommends supervision of use of equipment even when Jen is not here.

Action at The Blue House. The key for all doors at the Blue House is now the same as the one for the Meeting House. Residents can go in and have a look around and make suggestions for using the space.

Bonde is now pulling permits for the guest suite.

Animal Intelligence Series. Programs will begin Friday, April 5, when Thomas I. White speaks on *In Defense of Dolphins: The New Moral Frontier*. His book of the same title is in our library. White is a philosopher who teaches at Mt. Holyoke and works with dolphins on the Pacific coast.

Ben Kilham speaks on Saturday, May 4. His topic is also the title of his book which is in our library, *Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition*.

Noting how smart we know them to be, Bob Buhner wants a lecture on squirrels.

Who's Who Binder. Kristin Poirier at Easthampton is working on production under Sarah's direction, typing the bios and placing the photos taken by Joan Cenedella.

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Electronic Message Board/Robo Calls. The issue is not being handled as a high priority despite numerous and repeated requests from residents. The importance of an improved communication system was noted in emergency situations. Dave will address with Thom next week.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Community Fund Drive. Jim Dowell of Easthampton is leading the effort. He will be asking for assistance collecting for the fund.

Council members expressed an interest in offering separate categories for contributions to specific areas that residents value, such as fitness.

DISCUSSION

Lathrop does not have a team for the **Northampton Annual Adult Spelling Bee** to benefit the Northampton Education Foundation. Nevertheless, we encourage residents to attend. It is a delightful event at JFK Middle School on March 27. Dinner is available from 5:00 p. m., and the Spelling Bee begins at 6:00.

Thermostats. Bob Buhner described a Meeting house energy study made three years ago that resulted in installation of programmable thermostats for the three zones in the building. If for any reason residents change a setting it is very important to return the setting to the original when they finish using the space.

Bob noted that the Blue House thermostats still have dial controls, and he will file a work order for replacement by programmable thermostats.

A 24/7 daily 4 stage programmable thermostat is needed in the basement for the exercise area.

Association Meeting Refreshments. Sheila asked about serving refreshments at Association meetings. Dave replied that at the last meeting the assembly indicated a preference to not continue the service.

Lane Rep Terms. Dave stated that this is the last council meeting for current lane reps, so anyone who prefers not to continue should be thinking about a replacement, and the lane should canvass for a new rep.

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Coming Attractions

Irish Luncheon, March 20, 12:30 p. m. Sign up in the mail room.

Northampton Annual Adult Spelling Bee, March 27 at JFK Middle School, 100 Bridge Road. Dinner 5:00 p. m. Spelling Bee 6:00 p. m.

The Gay Pride Parade, Saturday May 4, 8 a. m. – 1 p. m.
There is a sign-up sheet in the Mail Room.

Association and Council Meetings

Next Association Meeting, Wednesday, April 3, 10:00 a. m.

Annual Association Meeting, Wednesday, May 1, 10:00 a. m.