

LATHROP NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2020

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Council members attending

Chris & Jack Hjelt, Co-Presidents
Audrey Bernstein, Vice President
Dale LaBonte, Treasurer
Arlene Jennings, Secretary
Edie Denney, Aspen
Nancy Nowak, Butternut
Shelley Schieffelin, Crabapple
Shelia Lyford, Dogwood
Joan Bernardini, Firethorn
Sarah Ismail for Elly Rumelt, Goldenchain
Richard Hutton, Hawthorn

Staff attending

Thom Wright, Executive Director
Mike Strycharz, Director Facilities
Rob Olmsted, Director Wellness & Care Coordination
Sarah Gauger, Resident Services Coordinator & Executive Assistant

Visitors

Fran Volkmann
Judy Buhner
Dave Morrissey
Alaire Rieffel

Moment of Silence

Co-President Jack Hjelt called for a moment of silence to open the regular monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Comings & Goings.

- Joe Herschel of 8 Butternut Lane died December 27, 2019.
- Monique Rowland of Firethorn Lane died December 28, 2019.
- Pat Walsh of Crabapple Lane died January 7, 2020.
- Stacy Carmichael of Firethorn Lane will move to Applewood in Amherst on January 16, 2020.

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Appreciation

- Residents who decorated the Meeting House for the holidays. Thanks to the Carol Czerapowicz-Judy Buhner team who have organized decorating for many years. The Meeting House was lovely! Jean Shackelford will lead this activity next year.
- The bar tenders--Bob Buhner, Michael Schwartz, and Nancy Nowak.
- Dave Morrissey for the continued provision of movies.

Minutes from the Association Meeting on December 4, 2019 were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report. Dale LaBonte.

Free Business Checking

Beginning balance	\$9,272.90
Income	\$42.00
Expenses	\$115.06
Balance	\$9,199.84

Expenses

- Party supplies

Income

- Holiday party

15 Month CD

Interest 2.3%	\$10.41
Balance	\$5,220.02

MANAGEMENT REPORTS. Thom Wright.

Refurbishment Manager. Mark Jodoin has been hired as a full-time Refurbishment Manager. He starts on January 21. The goal is to shorten the length of time it takes to refurbish units. Mark is a contractor and will be doing a lot of the work further reducing refurbishment expenses.

Property Demolition Status. The Northampton Historical Commission has deemed 716 Bridge Road to be preservation worthy, and Lathrop cannot raze any of the buildings for a period of twelve months. After that time, Management can apply for another permit. The garden tool shed will continue to be used for the foreseeable future. Nick will return items that had been moved to the Blue House.

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Kendal at Home. Kendal at Home has hired a Care Coordinator and has signed three members, thus far. There is additional interest. Larissa Lynds, our local Care Coordinator, is starting office hours on each campus. She will be in Northampton on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Easthampton on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kendal Charitable Funds Grant. Lathrop has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by KCF to initiate Delay the Disease programs at Lathrop and local facilities, including the Northampton and Easthampton senior centers and possibly the YMCA. One goal of the grant is to host a symposium with experts on Parkinson's Disease at Look Park or the Hotel Northampton in the fall. The program will be open to the public.

Emergency Broadcast System. Sarah has input all resident and staff data into the system. A test date will be announced.

Security Camera Policy. The Executive Council of the Board agreed that having cameras is a prudent risk management strategy and agree that monitoring at the desk of the Inn makes sense. This issue will be presented to the Board on January 28. All resident sentiments will be shared, and resident board members will also represent opinions of the lanes.

Trail Sign. An additional 5" x 8" sign indicating "All pets must be on a leash" will be added to the trail sign.

Discussion. Residents shared concerns with Thom about the trees that were cut down on Firethorn. Although Mike shared his intentions with Chris, and she thought she had forwarded the information to Joan Bernardini, the Firethorn lane rep, the group felt strongly that when such major changes are scheduled, residents who will be affected should receive notification in their cubbies regarding what, when, where, and why such actions are planned. Most residents nearby woke up to the sound of trees being cut down.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS. Rob Olmsted.

Rob asked for feedback about ways in which he could facilitate and reinforce topics Mark Peterson is raising in his excellent course on end of life planning. There was additional conversation about the ways we support each other while still respecting need for privacy during times when residents are off campus for medical reasons. Shelia noted that for after hours use, Dogwood residents have the option to be included on a list maintained by their near neighbors to allow for timely notification of contacts when medical events

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occur. All lanes should maintain information about individual privacy preferences.

UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Continued learning on the use of the Guest Room. Based on the good feedback received, the guest room seems to be working well.

Demolition of buildings. There is a one year hold on demolition of the house adjacent to the community gardens (716 Bridge Road) pending resolution of issues about its historic significance. This has just occurred in the past few days, and management is not sure how or whether they might challenge this determination.

UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Meeting House Committee. Dave Morrissey explained that it has not been possible to test the soda charger and the Wii system because both are old, and it is difficult to find necessary parts. Chris had asked Dave to see if the committee could recommend one significant item for the Meeting House that should be purchased this year using Association funds with some sharing from management.

Fitness Committee: Update on Use. Fran Volkmann reported that the new Fitness Center is being well used. The committee is encouraging a wide range of activities that keep us moving.

Fran requested a Council decision on regular funding support for classes such as yoga and tai chi which require an outside instructor.

There is a new signup board in the mail room for meetings with Jen. Fran would like feedback on how that system is working.

There was concern about children using the Fitness Center without family supervision. We were reminded that no children should be anywhere in the Meeting House without adult supervision.

Council members reported a general desire for more time with Jen. It was suggested there might be a time set to review the use of specific machines so that small groups could benefit. Rob also reminded us that there are differences between Jen doing an introduction to the machines, the

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development of your training objectives, and her role as a personal trainer where residents work with her one on one over time.

Shelley and Jack thanked the Fitness Committee for their work on establishing this major enhancement to our campus and our lives.

Landscape without Watering System Update. Chris Hjelt.

The Grounds Guild group has developed a draft pilot proposal for the introduction of micro clover in our lawns. They are coordinating closely with Mike Strycharz. Clover is more sustainable than grass. It is stronger than grass and denies light to weeds. Although still being developed, the pilot proposes that micro clover or a micro clover grass mix be overseeded on the open ground where the old house by the cemetery will be torn down. Mike proposed that the ground under the tree belt on Shallowbrook also be overseeded. As a second test, the front lawns on Aspen will also be seeded with clover using a cut and seed device which creates furrows and allows the seed to be dropped below the surface. This will give us an opportunity to observe and evaluate the two approaches. Chris will present the proposal at the February Association meeting to give residents the opportunity to comment. Two members of the group will attend a clinic on the topic at the Hadley Garden Center next week. Work will start in late April or early May.

ACTIONS AND/OR DISCUSSION NEEDED IN THIS MEETING

Update on discussion with Management regarding security cameras.

The Executive Committee of the Board met on the issue and believes the cameras are necessary. The issue will be addressed in the Lathrop Board meeting in late January.

Lathrop presence in Gay Pride Parade. Does our campus want a specific

role? The Gay Pride Parade is scheduled for May 2. Lathrop is a sponsor of the parade and likes to have representation in the parade. We will include information about the parade in the February Association Meeting and try to find one person who will get us organized for our participation. Residents describe the march as a fun event, and it is also an important way to highlight our community as an LGBT friendly place.

Proposal: Council approve/recommend to Association \$1,000 for Invasive Weed Eradication Project. Dale made a presentation on the

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invasive weeds Japanese stilt grass and Japanese knotweed in our conservation area. Left alone they would completely take over the area. The work must be done by qualified and licensed professionals. Dale's handouts will be filed with the minutes in the binder in the library. Council approved the proposal to provide \$1000 to the project and recommends such to the Association for their approval.

2020 Capital Improvements Priorities. Northampton and Easthampton both normally have \$50,000 available. Northampton did receive more this year with the work that was done on the lower level.

Issues identified, with limited discussion but receiving general support

- Necessary remedial work on the trail where there are hazards
- Assessment of the Meeting House roof and need for repainting some areas including the Meeting House steeple
- Street lighting needed on Hawthorn
- Solving the townhome downspouts water problem
- Addressing the problem of the sidewalk near the Meeting House buckling from plant roots
- Providing an appropriate space for yoga and other exercise classes
- Goldenchain retention basin

LANE INPUTS/QUESTIONS

Nancy Nowak (Butternut) and Edie Denney (Aspen) expressed concerns from residents about transportation. To book a ride one has to leave a phone message, but there is no reply to confirm, and it becomes necessary to call several times.

Richard Hutton (Hawthorn). The USA bins are too large and awkward for some residents, especially for those using walkers. Thom replied that at times Easthampton has a list of residents who need assistance, and we can do the same here.

Shelley Schefflein (Crabapple) asked about the new key card system. Thom said installation is expected, but no date has been set. The cost will be \$8,000.

Sheila Lyford (Dogwood) shared a complaint from a neighbor who was not happy with the food when dining at the Inn. Others described the experience as very positive.

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Arlene Jennings described the need for repairs on the trail to keep it safe and the hope that a grant can be applied for.

There is a general concern about drivers speeding on Shallowbrook, notably home health care aides. Rob will contact the agencies the aides work from. Jack also indicated he would help to address the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

COMING EVENTS

Winter Soup Lunch, January 15, 12:30 p. m.

New Resident Welcome Wine and Cheese, January 24, 4:00 p. m.

Hjelts off campus, January 19-23.

Association and Council Meetings

Association Meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 10:00 a. m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Jennings.

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