

LATHROP NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
March 4, 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
Elly Rumelt, Goldenchain
Judy Bruder, Hawthorn

Staff attending

Rob Olmsted, Director Wellness & Care Coordination
Sarah Gauger, Resident Services Coordinator & Executive Assistant

Visitors

Bob Buhner
Judy Buhner
Dave Morrissey
Michael Stevens

Moment of Silence

Co-President Jack Hjelt opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation for the caring that he sees in our community. Helping, respect for privacy, compassion, strength, empathy, the wisdom to act with gentleness and kindness. He then called for a moment of silence to open the regular monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Comings & Goings

Grant Bowman died February 9, 2020.

Gratitudes

- Alex Neubert and Rowena Roodman for assistance in organizing our participation in the Gay Pride Parade on May 2
- Nominating Committee: Bob Buhner, Jean Shackelford, Gary Roodman
- The art group for their creative stewardship producing wonderful displays of art and crafts

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Minutes from the Association Meeting on February 5, 2020 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report. Dale LaBonte.

Free Business Checking

February 2020 beginning balance	\$9,159.94
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$326.40
Balance	\$8,833.54

Expenses: Memorial gifts, Gathering Room shades, NYT book of films

15 Month CD

Interest 2.3%	\$9.12
Balance	\$5,239.22

MANAGEMENT REPORT. Thom Wright, Executive Director. In absentia. Written notes read by Jack.

All three vacant units on Firethorn have been awarded. Two of the prospective residents have donated to the support of the transgender asylum seekers. [Later news that one had withdrawn. New clients are seeing the house.]

We are awaiting capital funds for the door key card swipe system.

A security camera policy has been reviewed and recommended by Lathrop's attorney. The policy will be reviewed by the Board for approval in April.

Thom offered to answer any questions via email.

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MANAGEMENT REPORT. Rob Olmsted.

The Noro GI virus was confirmed in the Inn population. 27 residents and 15 staff members have experienced the ailment. The powerful, fast spreading virus is spread thru contact and surfaces. Residents were asked to isolate. Cleaning and sanitizing remains an ongoing process. All events scheduled were cancelled and the library closed. The city has conducted an inspection.

After 72 hours from the last symptom free patient the building and dining room reopened. A Thursday evening dinner for Northampton was planned this week [but later canceled.]

COVID-19 is inevitable in our area. Planning to address the situation is underway. Thom has organized a task force from the Management Safety Committee and the nurses, is consulting with Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and is consulting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

The virus is spread by droplets from coughing and sneezing. It lives for up to two weeks on a surface. Self isolation or quarantine is essential. For prevention it is important to be conscious of touching one's face and to constantly wash one's hands. Residents recommended other discipline basics--drinking liquids frequently. People over 60, particularly with underlying health challenges; immuno-compromised children; and pregnant women may be more at risk. Healthy young people may have few symptoms but can still be carriers.

Rob says to call if we have questions, not to wait for all answers.

MANAGEMENT REPORT. Sarah Gauger. The **Emergency Broadcast System** test was not ready in time for the Inn quarantine. Wednesday March 11 is the test date. The time is yet to be determined. There will be phone calls, voice mail, and text messages from different numbers. Pertinent details will appear in *The Lamp Post*. Contact will be through both cell and land lines where residents have both listed in the directory.

The **Security Camera System** will interface with the Inn cameras system. The Inn will be monitoring our security camera feeds as will Sarah on her cell phone.

Dale asked about problems with using the video system in the Gathering Room. Sarah will contact the provider who maintains the system, and she will follow up.

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Update for Management Actions.

We hope to replace Shallowbrook Road **speed bumps** in the spring. Shelley Schieffelin noted that to be effective the signs need to be located farther from the speed bumps.

We are exploring options for greater **safety crossing Bridge Road**. Claire Frierson and George Kriebel have volunteered to implement a useful solution by creating and placing flags at the crosswalk. The city has approved the plan. We are grateful to them. Judy Buhner has written to our Council member about the crosswalk problem.

UPDATE FROM COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Ad hoc Meeting House Committee. Dave Morrissey described purchases proposed for improvement. The lobby has been the focus of discussion and activity.

Four residents—Sheila Lyford, Edie Denney, Judy Buhner, and Cynthia Nyary--visited local stores (Danko, Fly by Night, Raymour and Flanigan, and Pieroway's) to measure and assess what is available locally. Suzie has also replicated their research.

Community feedback from testing chairs now in the Meeting House indicated the most comfortable seats were:

- 19.5-20" deep front to back, 18 – 20" inches high
- With arms and firm construction for ease on sitting and rising
- With fabric that did not compete with the art work
- Sturdy
- Not showing soil easily
- Stain resistant
- With tight backs (preferred over cushions)
- Loveseats with sliders under the legs for easy moving.

The concept should be discussed in the lanes to bring feedback to the April Association meeting.

The Meeting House Ad Hoc Committee proposes a two year plan with fabric and leg style to be decided at time of purchase.

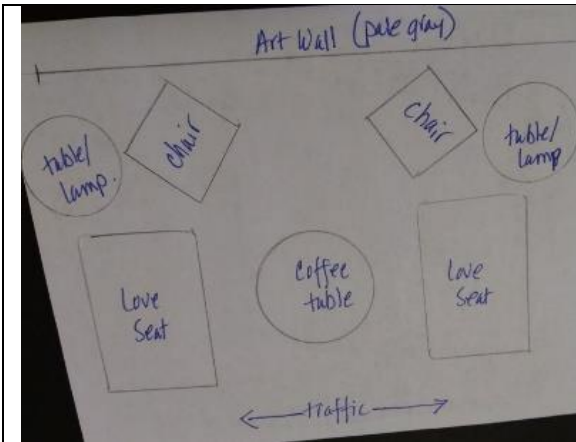
- Year one: two loveseats, \$4,000

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- Year two: two chairs (\$1,500), one coffee table (\$900), two floor lamps (\$500).
- Cost sharing 50/50 with Management when funds are available

Below are examples of the type of chair and loveseat that meet the committee's requirements for comfort and durability. Fabric and leg design are yet to be determined. Do not be concerned with colors and legs shown in these samples.



Digby by Flexsteel Furniture



Tailor Made by Temple Furniture



Ocean Drive by Palliser



Times Square by Rowe Furniture



Willett by Rowe Furniture

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Dale suggested the Association certificate of deposit funds be used for this project. Donations would also be welcome. Raising funds through a yard sale is another possibility.

Elly Rumelt asked what would be our specific goals as we report to the lanes. She also requested that we get professional help with décor. The goals are for the installation to be attractive, functional, tidy, and organized. Several residents observed that the furniture stores we are working with have design consultants.

Jack asked the committee to consider all input from today and give us their reaction. Chris confirmed that the goals are for the installation to be attractive, functional, tidy, and organized and requests feedback from the lanes on the project. Jack said the money is available regardless of using the CD or general account and then asked the Council to approve the expenditure of Year One \$2,000 so the matter can be taken to the Association meeting for ratification. Council approved the expenditure of \$2,000 for the Year One program, providing Lathrop provide matching funds, and recommends this expenditure to the Association for ratification, subject to availability of funds.

It was agreed that the key card system was a higher priority than lobby furnishings, but the key card funds come from capital improvements while the lobby project is from donations to our Association and the un-restricted funds available to Thom from the annual appeal.

Fitness Committee. Jack Hjelt.

- A concern--ramp access to the lower level does not meet accessibility standards.
- We are aiming for a very thorough weekly cleaning. Jose is our new cleaner as Patty has taken a job as a driver.
- Tai chi has moved to the lower level.
- Jen will have a new class in April on the model of her current class, pending finding an appropriate schedule.
- Assistance is need for keeping wash cloths clean for days Jen is not here. An alternative is to use paper towels.

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- Yoga needs more chairs (\$70) and 8 blankets (\$400). Council approved these expenditures and will recommend to the Association ratification of the \$400 expenditure for yoga blankets.

ACTIONS AND DISCUSSION NEEDED IN THIS MEETING

Solicitation and political canvassing. Thom recently explained Lathrop's position in a message to Jack:

"Solicitation inherently means someone is selling something. In this case, political canvassing is permitted. That said, our hopes with the No Solicitation signage is to discourage strangers from canvassing, but legally we cannot stop them.

Folks have the right not to answer their doors or to simply inform the canvasser they are not interested or are interested and can invite them in to speak more about their candidate, etc.

Lathrop doesn't get involved in politics, as a 501c3."

One possibility proposed for managing the situation is a sticker for our doors which would be available to all. Discussion with management will continue as will research on language and use.

Memorials

Several trees were memorial gifts. How should they be recognized? In a book listing memorials? Or by plaques on the trees? The question was not resolved at this meeting.

The Program Committee needs new members.

LANE INPUTS/QUESTIONS

Goldenchain has an issue with parking where there are no marked spaces on the lane, and cars create problems for residents exiting and entering their driveways. Some signage or space markings will be explored. Firethorn reported the same problem. The hope is for appropriate signage.

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Goldenchain also asked if a storage battery on each lane that provides a few days of back up power might be possible.

On **Crabapple** one resident wants to plant trees and another resident who is on Garden Guild will advise.

Firethorn. There has been a complaint about a new light, but the old type is no longer available, and the new one is more energy efficient. The residents living nearest the light have not complained.

Firethorn praised Sales and Marketing for management of the sale of three units simultaneously without disruptions to current residents.

Hawthorn asks who is in charge of Lathrop transportation. Management of transportation is in transition, and Mickey Moriarity will take over.

OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED

Sharing Information in an Emergency or Medical Situation. Should there be a lane list of what information residents want shared and with whom? That decision is up to each lane. Medical information is protected, but a trip to the hospital is not. File of life information is only for emergency medical personnel. Rob explained the information is otherwise private. If a resident wants the Lane Rep to have access it is up to the resident to share pertinent information with the Lane Rep.

Help with the New Trash Containers. Sarah reported that Nick will help if a neighbor is not available or able.

Trails. We need to repaint the blazes on the trail. Dale will take the question to the Trails subcommittee to arrange for the work to be done.

New residents need to know they can drive to the Cooke Avenue parking lot to walk Boggy Meadow Road which is smoother than the trail.

Dale asserted that Northampton needs more than one page of coverage in *The Lamp Post*. The information about the trails could be placed there. We should also present the information at the Association Meeting and during organized walks such as the bird walk in the spring.

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Aspen residents are concerned about the adjacent vacant property. The hedgerows will be trimmed. One large pine will be removed. A row of hemlocks will be added at the back of the lot as a sound barrier. Lawn planting is also planned.

Bob Buhner has been studying the master plan from the beginning to now. He asked for meeting minutes from the board for 2013 on and believes we are legally allowed to have the minutes. Sarah takes the minutes. There is no summary. Management has taken the position that Board minutes are not shared. Sarah will ask the Kendal rep, Nora. Jack raised the question of whether our 501c3 status has a bearing on the issue.

COMING EVENTS

Spelling Bee, Wednesday, March 25, 5:15 p. m. [subsequently canceled]

Association and Council Meetings

Association Meeting, Wednesday, April 1, 10:00 a.m.[subsequently canceled]

Association Meeting, Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.

Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Jennings.

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