

LATHROP NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL MEETING
April 2, 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
Sheila Lyford, Dogwood
Joan Bernardini, Firethorn
Elly Rumelt, Goldenchain
Judy Bruder, Hawthorn

Staff attending

Thom Wright, Executive Director
Rob Olmsted, Director Wellness & Care Coordination

Opening

Co-President Jack Hjelt opened the Zoom meeting at 2:00 p.m. He spoke about the importance of grateful living, noticing that all is already present and abundant. We take nothing for granted. We focus our attention and acknowledge that life is a gift, giving opportunities for learning, growth, and extending ourselves to others even in the most challenging times. Grateful living is supported by daily practices nourished in community and relationships. Small grateful acts can uplift us and help change the world. He then called for a moment of silence to open the meeting.

Gratitudes

- Dale for organizing the Zoom meeting
- Nominating Committee: Bob Buhner, Jean Shackelford, Gary Roodman. They created an excellent slate and built up a record of a number of people who are now in the queue to serve in the future.
- Carol Neubert for the twice a week WALKS
- Chris Hjelt for the weekly SINGS
- Residents for social distancing, humor, mutual support, and just plain acts of kindness
- Rowena Roodman and Carol Neubert for the Bones and Balance transition

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- Lathrop staff for their continued support beyond the call of duty

Minutes from the Council Meeting on March 4, 2020 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report. Dale LaBonte.

Checking balance \$8,652.53 CD balance \$5249.66

Slate of New Officers

Council accepted the slate of officers and requests the lanes decide by April 17 who will be their new lane representatives.

Chris and Jack Hjelt, Co-Presidents

Dale LaBonte, Vice President

Judy Hyde, Secretary

Dennie Brandt, Treasurer

MANAGEMENT REPORT. Thom Wright, Executive Director.

Thom is happy that we are able to practice social distancing without being isolated. He is open to additional meetings to keep us informed. His office sent a new update today by email with hard copy in cubbies. His weekly update will continue to appear on Thursdays.

He reports that change at Lathrop is constant, on an hourly basis. There are weekly meetings with Council in Easthampton, and he offers the same opportunity to Northampton.

Suzie Dickson Moyer (Director of Sales and Marketing), Frank Sansom (Director of Finance), and Heidi Chereski (Accounting Clerk) are now working at the Meeting House. Other management staff are in Easthampton serving residents there but still available to us if needed.

Effective Tuesday, distancing requirements will intensify based on new CDC reports. As of yesterday, all Inn residents receive meals in their rooms. There are no programs going on, but there are other efforts to keep residents engaged. Lathrop will be taking an abundance of caution at least through April 30. The governor has mandated distancing through May 4.

Shelley asked how we should proceed if we know of someone on campus who may not have access to getting groceries. Rob said to call him, but also to call neighbors if you have a concern.

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Mickey has offered a shopping list from which he will shop and drop off for residents who don't have other options. The form will be on the little table in the corner of the Meeting House entryway. The items list is generic. Add your name and address. If you use the list, be specific, for example, as to quantity, size, and weight. Since Suzie is working in the building, she will coordinate with Mickey. Delivery will not necessarily be next day.

Lathrop will also be launching a new app for grocery shopping which we have for free for 90 days. The app will also be used to provide notifications and updates to residents.

Rob encourages exhausting other resources first before using either of these options offered by Lathrop.

In Northampton at the Meeting House, a Lathrop staff member is cleaning the mail room daily. There will be housekeepers in on the weekend for the space we use.

Shelley expressed her appreciation of the policy to allow only one person at a time in the mailroom. Sarah is preparing signage to be placed outside the Meeting House to limit one person at a time in the mail room. Sheila observed that we need to change our habits and not sit in the Mail Room to sort our mail. Council concurred and asks residents to collect their mail and exit.

WELLNESS REPORT. Rob Olmsted.

Rob opened his time for our questions. Elly asked about staff, how they are doing, and he replied that they are anxious, worried about themselves and their families, and about exposing others. They are nervous about illness coming into the building. Rob regrets not being able to connect with this campus and urges the lanes to stay in touch by email and to call in with questions if he can help.

Jack asked what happens on this campus if we have a case? Should we move to extra precautions? Rob replied that we may know only that someone is ill, not what the illness is. It is unlikely that they will get a test until they go off to the hospital, and even then it is likely that they will be sent home, and we won't know even then. All depends upon the neighborhood network. Lathrop is bound by HIPAA Privacy Rule regulations, but it is likely that neighbors will share information.

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Thom said that asymptomatic transmission is a real concern. Someone with no symptoms can still transmit the disease. Thom asks us to operate under the assumption that anyone is a potential carrier. There are two self quarantines now on our campus.

Rob asserted that in places where you might be exposed, you should be wearing a mask. If you have a mask, use it. Make them if you can. In Easthampton volunteers have made masks for staff, and they are wearing them. They are uncomfortable, but do not mess with them. Moving them about increases transmission. Later in the meeting, Chris asked if they needed more since a number of people on our campus are making masks. Rob said that would be appreciated, and if they have extras they will distribute them in the community, but start with your own community to be sure all have been provided for.

Rob reported that Merridith O'Leary, Director of Public Health for the City of Northampton, has publicized what it is important to do upon receiving a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, and the city will be doing contact tracing. See <https://www.gazettenet.com/O-Leary-column-33608832>.

Rob said if we are worried about going out, CVS delivers, as does Serios.

Questions from the Lanes

WorxHub is being reviewed daily. Staff may call residents about orders, but generally they are handling emergencies only. If they do come to a home, they will call ahead, and they will wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Then they will decide with the resident if it can wait.

Joan asked what exposure is being created by the construction on Firethorn and whether the move-ins are on schedule. Thom replied that we expect all three to be on time. However, we are dependent on inspectors.

Spring landscaping work will not be on schedule. Spring Valley is not considered an essential business, and they cannot put their trucks on the road without a fine of \$2,500 per truck.

There have been questions about relocating fitness equipment. Space and cleaning are problematic. Thom says it is not feasible to reopen the gym or to move any equipment, and Jen is not working now.

Eddie asked if the Bridge Road property adjacent to Aspen is to remain as is. Thom said that nothing will happen there for now.

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Jack asked about the impact on the master plan process. Thom replied that the work is on hold. Nothing is going on now. He also explained that we need 70% presale of the 36 new units in order to start. In fact, we have more, and that is encouraging for when we can return to the work. Chris asked about the impact of the economy, and Thom acknowledged the threat since we will only proceed when we have the required deposits.

Final Remarks

Jack appreciated the Zoom meeting format, finding it effective.

Jack reminds residents to follow up on the US census.

We miss Bonnie, but she will return to work when distancing is over.

Thom encourages sending thank you's to staff.

For residents missing photocopy service Joan Bernardini suggests using your phone camera. Thom said we are trying to limit exposure, so for Lathrop business only we can send an electronic version to Suzie to print. Rob and Thom advised if photocopying is personal it needs to wait or we need to find other resources.

Jack proposes a weekly check-in amongst council members. He will use a Doodle poll to schedule.

Elly wondered if there might be a local group, of teens, for example, that would be helpful to seniors on a model of one where she lived in California. Shelley suggested perhaps the Northampton High School National Honor Society advisor or a church or synagogue.

Jack is looking for a two-bedroom apartment in Holyoke for two transgender women who will soon be released and need living quarters. He also offered to help any resident who has an emergency.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Jennings.

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