

Council Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020

Attending

Staff: Thom Wright, Sarah Gauger (Rob on vacation)

Officers: Chris Hjelt, Jack Hjelt, Judy Hyde, Dale Labonte

Lane Reps: Jean Shackelford, Ginny Biggie, Elly Rumelt, Joan Bernardini, Edie Denney, Shelley Schieffelin, Nancy Nowak

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Gathering Ourselves – Opening thoughts by Jack

We are very much missing Andy Walsh who died this week. We appreciate Alex Neubert's tender care for Andy, allowing him to participate in the walk-arounds.

Ann Woods has settled into 58 Golden Chain.

Don and Sally Ives now reside at #2 Aspen Lane. WELCOME!

Despite the constraints of COVID-19, we are inspired by our neighbors who continue to serve, innovate and build community. Our increased use of ZOOM wouldn't be possible without the services and patience of Carol and Dale. The new Plane trees along Bridge Rd. owe their new home to Pamela and Warren. An emerging slate of potential winter activities are products of resident imagination and the stewardship of Chris, Peter, Pamela, Audrey, Joan and Elly. Joy and thanks to Lathrop for improved door access.

Treasury

No expenses this month. There will be a report forthcoming later this week.

Management report -Thom

- Gutter work here will start next week.
- Water bags on the trees are being removed.
- A summary of the process to determine financial eligibility/capacity for individuals to live at Lathrop is being prepared by Frank and will be available to residents.
- A master plan update will be forthcoming Friday.

Ongoing activities, plans, updates

Grounds

Land Conservation committee will meet at 10:30 am next Monday. It will be a special annual meeting to appreciate all that's going on. All residents are welcome to attend.

There are 3 spots available in community garden. Requests should go to Dale.

Joan: received a complaint about trails' condition, that there are roots and rocks and hard to follow. Dale: Leaves need to remain on forest floor. Natural conditions will slowly compact them. Trail markers have been updated.

Jack: proposal to thank Broadbrook for their work blazing the trail.

Winter Activities (additional info will be communicated in the Lamp Post)

- More than 50% participation in the possible activities poll.
- Peter VanPelt will lead a communal writing project.
- Elly and Joan are organizing Secret Santa.
- Walks are also being planned.
- Affinity groups will be organized by those proposing them.
- Chris recommends meeting in the meeting room.
- Holiday decorating will occur Thursday, Dec. 3.
- High Definition choral group will carol here December 18, 3pm, starting on Aspen.

We will honor Bonnie's service and friendship with a \$200 gift card. A card for us to sign will be in the mailroom starting Dec. 9th. There will also be a small box for personal messages.

Staff appreciation fund - It's time to donate to employees of Lathrop. Lots goes on behind the scenes. Our chance to say thank you. Contributions must be received by Friday, Dec. 11th. Checks should be made payable to Lathrop Community Inc, with employee appreciation on the memo line, and sent to the Finance Office. You may also contribute online. www.lathrop.kendal.org and click on 'Giving to Lathrop at the top of the home page. Then click 'Donate Now' on the right-hand side and complete the form, choosing 'staff appreciation'.

New Business

As winter arrives, we do need to keep fit. The fitness room is available. We need new pedals for the recumbent bike, a \$60 expense. Approved.

Lathrop Board of Directors

There have been discussions and questions about how residents' interests are represented on the board, about its membership and operations.

Thom offered the following in answer to our questions:

A zoom open to all residents with board members or the executive committee is being planned for January. The purpose: to give overview, roles, structure, whether meeting the need, or how to become more transparent. It will also serve to help board members understand better the people they serve.

The Board has a limit of 20 members allowed for, but now some vacancies. Usually the full board shows up.

Board members get orientation.

We have more resident representation on the Board than most Kendals, two from each campus. We are different from other Kendals in our relative independence, size and range of services.

Chris wondered how do we develop a communication loop with board members? Thom replied that a new committee has been set up to look at this. Guidelines needed. The Board is considering how a summary of Board meetings can be made available to us.

Shelley: Board meeting summaries would be handy to have on our website.

Chris: A challenge to find the balance between being frank and being transparent.

Jack: We don't want to put our resident members in a bind - Board member should speak with one voice which may cause inner conflict. Given our age, 3-year terms for residents may be unrealistic.

Lane questions and concerns

Edie: Can tai chi start up again? Yes. Check in with Sarah.

Dale wonders if we can get more updates about things we expect to happen, like gutter work. Thom answered that Nina is in charge of facilities, and she's being integrated. Agrees with the importance of communications.

Chris: We have valleys in our roof that cause water to pour down. Thom: should be addressed by gutter people, but if not, put in a work order for a deflector.

Shelley: There are drains that may not be obvious, so they should be mapped.

Ginny: As residents consider support of the Appreciation fund, we are reminded that some feel they are not getting the service we deserve. Easthampton getting more. Shelley echoed this. Someone found meeting house inner door locked when they thought it was open to us. Uncertainty about availability of access causes frustration. Need consistent times open to be posted on the door and adhered to.

Thom said that the issue arises in part because the Inn does require more services and the office and maintenance headquarters are on the other campus but he believes the town house residents on each campus receive the same services.

Jack: Some residents worry they won't be able to pick up meals during the winter. Thom will check into this.

Elly: Great appreciation for meals. A few think the side dishes too small. Hemlocks with wooly adelgid infestation planted here by Spring Valley. She will send photos to Thom who will speak to SV.

Jack: Residents are asking for more clarification on what diversity committee does. Thom will provide.