

Council Meeting notes
January 6, 2021

Present:

Officers: Jack Hjelt, Chris Hjelt, Judy Hyde, Dale LaBonte, Dennie Brandt

Lane Reps: Shelley Schieffelin, Ginny Biggie, Edie Denney, Jean Shackelford, Bob Buhner, Joan Bernardini

Staff: Thom, Sarah, Rob

After a minute of silence, Jack expressed the following **appreciations**:

Nick, steady stewardship of the Council, Lathrop for gutter contractors and fixing the door, the service of Frank and Bonnie, the work of Peter and others on the writing project, the zoom masters Dale and Carol, the creative games of Carol. Dogs. Indispensable Lathrop drivers. The secret santa great fun, organized by Elly and Joan, the Christmas carolers. Neighbors are watching out for each other. Creative, thoughtful people making things happen.

Introduction of Chris Hague, facilities manager

Treasurer's report

Expenses 12/1/20-1/5/21.

\$211.90 - gift for Bonnie
\$100. -Northampton Music Center concert
\$ 52.97 - pedals for exercise bike

Income

\$5485 - Fall fund raising campaign

Balance in checking and CD

\$16,122.31

Thom's report:

-He and Chris are working on maintenance schedule.

-Bob Buhner has raised question about whether the temperature settings in the Meetinghouse have been changed to reflect the much lower use. Chris said he would look into it.

Interviews underway for new CFO, to be wrapped up tomorrow. Top 3 candidates will be presented to finance committee tomorrow. Frank will help with transition.

Joan: My lane wants to know status of master plan. We need to give people some hope. They worry about their investments. We need something concrete.

Thom: it's alive. Updated projections, cost estimates and reworks for townhomes and community center. Looking forward to substantial update at the end of the month. Have to rework financial projections.

Jean: concern we've missed borrowing at these low interest rates.

Thom: talking about rate increases for residents. The Board will look at different scenarios.

Shelley: concern about length of time. We're wondering how much has been spent on planning?

Thom is going to provide us with report that indicates amount spent already.

Elly: I hope the report will have alternatives. The American Inn debacle is on our minds. Seeing what happens when maintenance is deferred. Do residents have a say on the master plan?

Thom: We've got one more round with this, to make the decision. Shooting for \$17 million long term debt. The final plan has to show a minimum of \$500,000 improved cash flow.

Affiliation agreement with Kendal still being worked on.

Chris Hague will check with Spring Valley to make sure walk ways are all cleared and snow not pushed against buildings.

Judy: When will my air conditioners be removed?

Joan: Some want more efficient airconditioners that fit in existing opening. Chris Hague will look into this.

Shelley: A resident wants hours when art room open posted. Ginnie said that it's open when announced in Lamp Post.

Rob's report:

The 2 cases on Easthampton campus are causing a lot of anxiety. Try to watch our emotional reactions. We've clarified our communications. Still working on a process to allow waivers of confidentiality. Defining what constitutes an exposure. We're in the dark before the dawn, all exhausted.

Testing at Lathrop? : we've ruled that out as a good use of resources. How would we institute such program? Is it even possible? Vaccination: People want it. We are registered as a CCRC. Included in phase 1. Not scheduled yet. Phase 2: top priority is people 75+ and comorbidity. Not clear where vaccine will be given. Centers being set up for first responders and may be used for subsequent vaccinations. We would love to bring the clinic to Lathrop, but it's doubtful.

Jean: Let's be proactive. In some instances, vaccine is going bad because people don't show up. Be in touch with Walgreens so that if they have a surplus, they could be primed to ship it here.

Ginny: Why are other states able to work with medical providers to provide the vaccine through registration and lottery as they are doing in CO. ?

Rob: all states are controlling how it goes. Doubts that we can get Walgreens to come to Lathrop.

Joan: Why cost prohibitive to get tests here?

Rob: Someone has to pay for the tests. We could contract with a firm to do surveillance testing. We're too small a community, we don't have right licensure to buy tests in bulk.

Elly: Valley Medical has vaccine for its staff and then will offer to patients.

A guideline needed to for what information we need to know. Not to violate privacy, but to know what possible, likely sources of transmission, in ways to guide our own choices.

Rob: If the vector is clear, that is communicated.

Chris reassured us that the Lathrop drivers are not exposed.

Rob: we are letting residents know.

Jack: we need to be consistent in our practices in the MeetingHouse. No delays in mailroom.

Jean: Received a proposal to initiate a record of campus programming keeping these archives in the library for residents and potential residents.

Landscape report by Dale

-drainage repair behind Hawthorne has been very successful

-pleased that plows kept open the trailhead

-bittersweet removed from Dogwood. Shouldn't be pulled out by the roots.

-Successful year with Spring Valley

-Next mtg of Land Conservation Committee. 2/8, 11:00 am

-compost pile at the community garden doing well and in addition to the compost pile there are leaves available for people who want mulch in their gardens

Report on our activities by Chris

-Very positive feedback on our winter activities

-2 affinity groups have begun: birds & cooking

-Extended hours in fitness center

-Mix and Match conversations getting started

-Guided winter walks on hold

-Sunday movies will continue, but not on Friday

-New filters will be installed

-Mark Peterson presentation next week about end of life issues

Jack: We will continue with mid-month check-ins only on topic of covid. Community zoom is good idea. We have to redouble our efforts.

Dale. Suggested it would be good to have a moderator and questions in advance for the Community zoom.

Rob reported feeling swamped with individuals lobbying. Community conversation and decisions helpful.

Jack: Association would pay for a heater for the porch. Thom tried to find one with automatic turnoff. Will talk to Chris Hague about looking for one.

Lane concerns

Elly. People very appreciative of meals but sides and salads too small.

Dale: Hopes for dishes that can be returned to kitchen.

Edie: Would this be a good time to paint the MeetingHouse?

Jean: Holiday decor clean up time.

Arlene has made request for archives to keep records of things that happen here.

Joan: Ham radio antenna that's now installed not popular with those who have to look on it.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hyde