

## **Northampton Council Meeting September 1, 2021**

### **Greetings from our interim director, Elizabeth Weissbach**

Liz is delighted to be back at Lathrop after so many years. She will be attending our Labor Day barbecue and hopes to meet many residents at it. She expects to be here in Northampton one day a week.

Dennis has resigned, effective at the end of September. He served us for 18 years, but is choosing now to work closer to home. Reception for him September 22nd.

**Comings and Goings:** Geoff Lobenstine has moved into 20 Crabapple. Peg Rasmussen has left 27 Goldenchain to move near her son's home in Maplewood.

**Gratitudes to:** Gary and Rowena Roodman for bringing the Third String Trio to our campus. Bob Solosko and Gary Roodman for helping train residents to use the new sound system and for ably supporting programs with it. Rowena Roodman for organizing the Andy Walsh Memorial Afternoon of Sharing and to those who shared their talents (including cookie baking) for the event. The Program Committee and resident volunteers for supporting the wine and cheese reception for our new interim director.

Minutes of August meeting approved.

### **Treasurer's report- Dennie Brandt**

Current balance \$13,000+

### **Management**

**Liz** - Working on covid policies, restricting visitors from outside Lathrop from the Inn dining room. Working with Rob daily to monitor news from the CDC.

**Holly** - Occupancy 97% townhomes; 93% Inn. \$45,000 more income than budgeted. Expenses were lower. Therefore our position right now is \$167,000 better than budgeted. With this good cash position we have money to use for many upcoming expenses for repairs.

**Chris Hague**- Work being done on our sidewalk in front of Meeting House; residents are asked not to walk on newly asphalted surfaces until they are dry. Diversion of waterflow at the end of Shallow Brook, to control erosion at trail head, is being considered.

Elly: there's been a request for a list of projects, including their prioritization.

Liz: the Board has approved a capital plan for projects; we have to meet to discuss how it will go forward.

Jean K: how about the Firethorn berm? Chris: being addressed.

Members raised questions about cleaning dryer vents, power washing, and removing air conditioners. Chris is working on getting all these done. An obstacle for power washing has been Northampton water usage restrictions.

**Kathi Brown**-Looking for feedback on Donna, our new Meeting House Coordinator who is working Tuesday-Friday 9-4pm. Two residents offered positive experiences.

## **Wellness - Rob**

Rob is in discussion with Walgreens to organize booster shots. The science is unsettled. Third shots (not boosters) are available for the immune compromised any time. Gary wondered about further recommendations? People who are immune-compromised are encouraged to get a 3rd shot, sooner rather than later.

Vaccination cards- if you can't find yours, Walgreens said they would send a new one, but Rob's not sure they actually will. He suggests making photo copies. Expects a new card for boosters. Will do all possible to arrange to have boosters given here in October. He is also trying to arrange an earlier the usual date for flu shots, so these will not interfere with the boosters.

No need to wear masks outdoors unless talking face to face for a prolonged period of time.

What if a group agrees not to wear masks in the MH? Rob replied that it is up to us to adhere to group policy. Live your life according to your best understanding of what's appropriate for you. We are trying not to be paternalistic.

Elly: Glad you are thinking about our quality of life, and leaving the decision to the individual. What about people who have traveled? Rob: Five days of isolation and then a test. Go through your doctor for a referral for testing or use one of the asymptomatic clinics for which you apply online. Rapid antigen test over the counter at Walgreens if you have any symptoms. There are no hi risk/low risk states now. It's everywhere.

Should the signs mandating mask wearing on campus be updated? Rob said we could take the signs down, but signs are expensive so we need to be clear what message we want to give. The upshot was that we will take this up on our lanes, and communicate residents' thoughts to the Council.

## **Committee reports**

**Land - Dale** The Land Conservation Committee offered 3 policy proposals, which are attached. Please review for Council action next month.

### **Program - Chris**

Plans for September: Labor Day picnic, welcoming newcomers, NoviCantori concert, Creativity fair, Mayoral candidates on zoom

**Fitness - Sue** Committee met, things going well at the fitness center

**Safety - Sally** Concerns about asphalt repair, speed bumps may be altered, lighting adequacy, some want more some less;

**Garden- Sally** Plan to bring a proposal to the Council next month for funding for critter-proof fencing and shed. Residents have pledged \$3900 so far. An additional \$5000 has been pledged contingent on the Association contributing \$2500. The gardeners are looking for contributions from Lathrop and from the Association, in addition to the pledges already made from residents. We hope to have the shed in place before winter,

the fence in the spring. Liz commented that she is very impressed with the amount of support from residents. She needs to know the cost of the project before she can make a decision on a Lathrop contribution to it.

## **New Business**

Patio - Dale. Wants lanes to consider the attached proposal and give feedback.

By-law change regarding representation to the Lathrop Board

### **Proposed addition to Section 12 of the Northampton Residents' Association By-laws**

“In the event of a vacancy or term expiration of a Northampton campus representative on the Lathrop Inc. Board of Directors, within a week of notification of the vacancy or expiration of term, a committee of three members shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Council. This committee shall notify members of the Residents Association of the vacancy and the legal responsibilities of Lathrop Inc. Board Members, providing copies of the current Bylaws of the Corporation with the request for nominations. Nominees shall provide a written letter of interest in serving on the Board of Directors of the Lathrop Community, Inc., noting skills, experience and or expertise for such service and knowledge of the campus. The committee in conjunction with the Association's elected officers shall use this documentation to choose the highest-ranking candidates for presentation to the Lathrop Inc. Board. This process shall take no more than six weeks. “

Feedback from Crabapple: additional criteria for reps- involvement in the community, knowledge of financial aspects, commitment to ongoing communication with residents

Further refinement to happen, before presentation to the Association.

Aspen: we question 3 year terms, with 3 extensions. Also the low number (4) on the Board.

Firethorn: length of terms not realistic for people of our age.

## **Lane concerns**

Bob is curious why Lathrop pays real estate taxes? Liz replied said that was ongoing since the beginning. Holly said that we are not eligible to be tax-exempt.

Rowena asked for clarification as to whether all staff is required to be vaccinated. Liz is researching what is done at other Kendall communities. So far she has not completed a vaccine mandate protocol for Lathrop but it is a top priority.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Hyde, secretary