

Lathrop North Council Meeting
October 6, 2021

Comings and Goings

Rebecca is hospitalized, recovering from a fall.

Gratitudes

Hans and his committee for the remarkable Festival of Creativity. Jeff Mitchell, Ginny Biggie, Judy Hyde and Martha Cushman for successfully working to bring concerts safely indoors in Northampton during the winter. Chris and the Program Committee for the welcome coffee for Liz Weissbach and Donna. Shelley Schiefflin for the mayoral panel on Zoom.

Minutes of September meeting approved

Treasurer's report balance: \$12,911.50

Additional funds just received from Community Fund

Management- Liz

Very grateful for the welcoming reception.

Communications with residents, formerly an abyss, is being addressed in these ways:

1. Town Hall mtg Oct 14th at 3 pm to discuss the financial status of Lathrop, update on building project. No decision being made until new permanent director is in place. Reviewing American Inn.
2. A 2nd Town Hall October 22 mtg. Review of process for hiring new CEO by search firm
3. Feedback on the survey and interviews with residents
4. October 26 Board mtg-improving involvement and communications with residents
5. Sarah will be doing snapshots of Board members in the Lamp Post

6. Many resident meetings have been held. Liz encouraged us to get together with her when she's here on Fridays. Plans to meet informally with lanes.

Financial Update through August 31 - Holly

Occupancy: 98%

YTD Revenue \$83,334 over budget. Expenses are much lower than budgeted because of decreased payroll. Struggling to find new employees.

Days cash on hand: 66; if line of credit is included, 112 days. (goal is 150 days)

Jack wondered about the Vanguard fund - Holly believes that this fund was established about 10 years ago when there was a surplus. It's a little extra cushion. There are some restrictions on it, placed by the board.

Gary wondered about capital projects. Holly: 1.5 million of capital projects identified. East Hampton is getting power washing and painting now; we got paving. If the weather permits, we will get the washing and painting. He mentioned need for sealing cracks in roads.

Holly also reported for Chris Hague who was unable to attend.

He will be going to each lane to see what's needed. The Inn will be painted in the Spring.

Shelley reminded that there are several of us waiting to have our air conditioners removed. Lane concerns: door not shutting, power washing needed, mess left after rehab. Work orders not taken care of.

Jean Krogh raised lane concerns: mold on Meeting House roof; not mowing every week; powerwashing

Dale wondered about seasonal winterizing.

Martha: we all have lichen on roofs.

Jack: wondered about Spring Valley's continued employment. Holly said that they are going to put the job out to bid.

Human Resources - Kathi Brown

Very tough to find employees. Short handed in dining room, need a cook and servers. Other needs include a weekend concierge, a CNA as one is out on medical leave, and a LPN to replace one who wishes to leave.

They are doing a study on wages. Need to become more competitive. MA is higher than most states. Working on keeping employees. Sign-on and referral bonuses being offered.

Gary- what about benefits? Kathi-we have robust package, offering 3 levels of Blue Cross, and lots of other perks.

Wellness- Rob

Cases dropping.

Boosters - best way to get them is through your pharmacy. He will help with anyone who has trouble navigating the system. Also available at Walmarts without appointment; Town Council chamber another site offered by Senior Center. Shelley signed up in advance. Elly wondered if there's anyway to monitor how many got boosters. Rob thought not.

Rapid testing - new one just approved, big national initiative. Elly thought maybe we will be able to take advantage of this. Hard to find on the internet.

Lathrop has a staff mandate now.

Maintaining and maximizing ventilation and air filtering. We have highest level of filtering throughout Meeting House.

Flu shot clinics being set up on campus.

Gary wondered about federal covid loan. Holly said that we got a loan and have applied for loan forgiveness.

Board of Trustees- Joan Wofford

Not much to report since there has not been a recent meeting. Working on a way to incorporate residents into Board committees

Landscaping-Dale

Feedback from Lanes on LCC policy proposals

-don't name places after people

-consider climate changes in deciding what to plant

Council accepted first two proposals as policy to go to Association and then to Board for ratification.

Program Committee-Chris

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 13: Opera Simulcasts begins with *Boris Godunov*. **Tuesday, October 19 League of Women Voters Zoom Forums**

6:00: At large City Council Candidates

7:30: Mayoral Candidates

Pre-register on the LWV Website.

Wednesday, October 20, 3:00: Lathrop Board Town Hall Meeting on Zoom

Thursday, October 21, 4:00 to 5:00: First Ever North Campus Story Swap. Residents share humorous 5 minute stories around 4 themes. In the Gathering Room and on Zoom. Check with Judy Hyde or Chris Hjelt for details.

Thursday, October 21, 5:30-6:00 Zoom session with Ward 1 candidates for the City Council.

Wednesday, October 27: Metropolitan Opera Encore *Fire Shut Up My Bones*.

Second Election Zoom with Candidates for Councilor at Large position with discussion of the ballot measure. Time and date to be determined.

Saturday, October 30, 3:30: Halloween Walk Around. Costumes encouraged! Treats for the walkers left on your porch or drive way welcome.

Sunday, October 31, 2:00: Movie in the Gathering Room, the 1978 classic *Halloween* and the beginning of Sunday movies.

Ideas for November December

- Art Exhibit at Springfield Museums of Ai Wei Wei's works on display until Jan 2, 2022. Sarah with talk with Marilyn to arrange van.
- North Campus music committee members are selecting one concert each month TBD.

- Buying your electricity from alternative sources. Specialist from Climate Action Now or a panel of Lathrop Residents who access different sources for their electricity provided through National Grid.
- Judy Hyde's friend who is a world player supporting the rights of Indigenous People. Also another friend who is working with indigenous groups in Ecuador in support of land rights and animal corridors. One idea is to have them present in the Gathering Room using the screen for visuals and simultaneously use zoom to reach folks at home and using screen share for the visuals. We need to test this idea technologically.
- Thanksgiving Outreach project: two possibilities: food drive for the survival center or support for possible program at Jackson School that sends food home for vulnerable families.
- Decorate the Meeting House—maybe Thanksgiving week-end to be ready for Hannukah Nov. 28. Look for a larger, better Menorah. Sarah thinks Lathrop Management would fund such a purchase up to \$100.
- Secret Santa
- *Messiah Complex* on the big screen in the Gathering Room. Filmed by the Against the Grain Theatre, a visually amazing version of the *Messiah* filmed across Canada using ethically diverse singers.

How do people feel about offering candy at the movies? After some discussion, let's give it a try and see if there's anyone not coming because candy is being served.

Fitness-Sue

Movement and balance class to start, twice a week, by Jen.

Yoga is happening.

Safety-Sally

Bushes on Shallowbrook got pruned
Paving happened.

Garden- Sally

Still don't have an estimate on the fence. (\$6000-8,000 is the guess)

Ready to decide on the shed which may be about \$8,500.

Jack encouraged us to endorse \$2,500 support from our treasury. Crabapple in favor.

The Council is in support and will bring to the Association for final approval.

Patio-Dale

The Council will ask the Association to endorse handing this project over to Chris Hague to investigate further once the project has more clarity. The group consensus is that Sarah's idea of a drawing to serve as the basis for discussion in the Association was excellent.

One lane expressed nonapproval. Wondering about the need once covid is no longer a factor. Martha's lane would like an extension of the porch. Maybe wood? Circular roof? Jack said that no one is thinking of a concrete slab. Edie offered that if plays are contemplated for this patio, Warren and Pamela would like to be consulted. We enjoy our outdoor space, and we want to think about its attractiveness. Firethorn not ready to make a decision.

By-Law change- Jack

Jack is working on language to clarify a proposed method of developing a pool of interested candidates to present to the Board as possible resident representatives to the Board when there is a vacancy.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hyde, secretary