

Lathrop North Council
January 5, 2022

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Elly Rumelt, Dale LaBonte, Dennie Brandt, Judith Hyde, Martha Cushman, Jean Krogh, Joan Wofford, Sally Ives, Sarah Ismail, Gary Fey, Ginnie Biggie, Peter VanPelt

Staff: Liz Weissbach, Rob Olmsted, Kathi Brown, Chris Hague

Comings & goings

June Morse is home from rehab. Margery Ewing has permanently relocated to Linda Manor.

Gratitudes

On -going gratitude to the Music Committee and to Dave for bringing back entertainment to the Meeting House, and to the program Committee for safe gatherings. To Liz for her availability at coffee morning, for her increased time in Northampton, and for her warmth and friendliness at all times. To Rob for keeping track of the ever-changing virus, for recommendations about living with it and for transparency about its presence at Lathrop. To Chris Hjelt, Bob Solosko, and Gary Fey for working on ways to have events in the Meeting House that can also include residents who prefer to attend on Zoom. To Jean Krogh and Fran Volkmann for working group on keeping community in the time of COVID.

Minutes of December meeting approved.

Treasurer's report

2 expenditures this month-chairs for the MH and labor on the butterfly garden.

Balance \$19,592.55

Management report

Liz

1. Spike in covid cases and break-through cases in the wider world. Two staff affected but no residents to date.

New policy banning visitors to the Inn. Events are still being held, with distance and mask requirements. No singing. The North campus should have the same restrictions here. Jean Krogh supported our following same protocol. Gary Fey worried about what residents may be exposed to outside our campus. Shelley reminded us of a directive from the Public Health Department circulated this week on North Neighbors, outlining best practices. Elly pointed out that the information is constantly evolving. Liz will write up and send out the revised policy.

2. Work being done on clarifying Board committees' duties and membership. These committees are: executive, finance and Board development. The capital asset committee's name has changed to Buildings and Grounds. The DEI committee, standing for diversity, equity and inclusion, attends to opportunities to expand diversity. The philanthropy committee is establishing a financial planning guide and will develop a fund raising initiative in the Lathrop community. The investment committee is a subcommittee of finance. Residents will now be included in all committees.

Chris Hague

1. Erosion behind #61 is repaired.
2. AC removals moving along pretty well.
3. Power washing 98% finished.
4. Bids for painting MH are being reviewed. Plan to do the work in the Spring.
5. Getting caught up on work orders

Kathi Brown

1. New cook getting rave reviews; 2 other kitchen staff set to start within 2 weeks.
2. Other staff being actively sought for other Inn positions.

Rob Olmsted

Rob reviewed familiar risk management behaviors and protocol. We have bulk purchased 180 at-home tests for use by people who are symptomatic. Call the wellness office. \$15. They can be dropped off at your home.

Dale spoke to the lack of trust in the purchased masks, guessing it may be a holdover from the previous administration. Perhaps a statement about their validity as equivalent masks to the highest standard would have sufficed to quell quality doubts. Rob expressed concern that he wasn't contacted first before doubts expressed broadly. Bob wondered why management is isolated from our community conversations. Rob doesn't want to be on NorthNeighbors but does want to be called.

Board

Joan Wofford thanked Liz for her full report on committees, reiterating that there is much positivity around having residents join committees. Peter was grateful to Liz as well. More communication between the Board and residents is happening. The search committee is meeting this afternoon, to schedule interviews with 6 semi-finalists, 3 men, 3 women. Bob Buhner wondered if they tend to be local and what age? Peter said mostly regional and in mid-life career.

Committees

Landscape

Dale attended the sustainability project group (SPG) of Kendal. She will send out some notes. Campuses are doing energy audits or sustainability plans. Also composting, reducing single use plastics, lower electricity use are some of the initiatives on some campuses. Judy is planning to go to the SSAFE meeting tomorrow to better understand what it's about.

Program

Chris reported that Sunday movies will continue, with chairs farther apart. The concert on the 16th will go forward. Also Gilbert and Sullivan HMS Pinafore and Trial by Jury on January 21st in the Gathering room facilitated by Judy Bruder and a morning drop in meeting with Liz. The committee is exploring a couple of online programs.

She recommends reinvigorating the walk-arounds.

Please consider offering excess chairs to refugee resettlement committee.

Elly wondered about progress on hybrid programs, using computers in the MH. Dale thinks we need a camera, a computer and a microphone. Any technology assistance from Kendal? We haven't heard back. Liz will inquire. Dale thinks the tech committee should reconvene.

Fitness

Sue Bastek reported the January program has been cancelled. Also the balance barre classes are on hold. Jen will be here Tuesday and Thursday for individual consultation.

Safety

Sally Ives is trying to set up a meeting. They discussed emergency preparedness at last meeting. Speedbumps discussed. Dale expressed doubts that the speed bumps are effective. Gary said we should research methods of traffic control before investing in any one remedy.

Community garden

Sally has received many positive messages re: the new garden shed. She thanked Ruth and Fran for their help in making final decisions about the shed.

The fence should be in before spring gardening begins. Chris signed the contract.

New business

Working group on covid and community, headed by Fran and Jean. How can we be more inclusive in this isolating time? Looking into other retirement communities' practices. Conversations with residents here who are the most isolated.

New resident coming into Firethorn next week. How to get to know your neighbors in the current circumstances. Elly wants there to be a list of and asks people to let her know things that might go on that list.

Lane concerns

Aspen asks to have this part of the meeting come at the beginning. Also would like management data circulated before the meeting. Also requests that time with Liz be more like the fire-side chats Tom held.

Goldenchain had thoughts about SSAFE. Would there be cost to residents? Can individuals opt out of mailing list? How much input do we have? Is there a policy for giving to causes? No increase in number of association meetings.

Hawthorne -not necessary to have more association meetings, sometimes they are even a waste of time. More welcome would be more informal times for people to speak their minds.

Butternut - what is the responsibility of the rep when someone is hospitalized? How much to share? Elly suggested asking people what they want others to know.

Crabapple - no increase in association meetings, they are too long. Reports ahead of time would be helpful.

Elly heard the request for guidance for reps responding to illness, hospitalizations or other problems of residents. She will consider how best to respond to this need.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hyde