

Lathrop Northampton Residents 'Council
October 18, 2022

Comings and Goings

Erin Walther is now living at 7 Butternut, the residence of her late father. Welcome, Erin, to our community.

Gratitudes to:

The Music Committee for the superb concert by Windborne

The Patio Working Group for the plan of the patio and Chris Hague and Spring Valley for its execution

The kitchen for the food and to Donna for the set up for our congenial wine and cheese

Spring Valley for seasonal decor

Dave for curated movies and custom hot dogs

Donna and Chris Hague for our front porch signs about the campus speed limit

Chris Hjelt and a small group of volunteers for planning and facilitating a community conversation to assist in grounding the strategic planning retreat in a recognition of the unique community that we are

Holly for investigating Lathrop's eligibility for American Rescue Plan Act funds

And to all who contribute to the working of our community. We recognize today two new committee heads: Joe Kunin for Fitness Committee and Nancy Chamberlin for Welcoming Committee

Treasurer's report

Issue: Our current bank account at the Florence Bank uses the Lathrop Community's tax identification number. This must change as this account is separate from the Lathrop Community and therefore the Lathrop Community does not oversee dispersal of these funds. In order for the Residents 'Association to open a new bank account the Council must approve the Residents Association becoming a 501(c)7. (social club designation) The motion was made to approve this designation and to approve these officers for the newly established Lathrop Northampton Residents 'Association: President: Elizabeth Rumelt, Vice President: Cornelia Claire Frierson; Secretary, Judith Hyde; Treasurer, Jean Shackelford. Motions carried.

Minutes policy change

In a change to our usual procedure, now the officers will approve minutes ASAP after each meeting of the Council, and the minutes will be distributed to all Residents. Any corrections from others will be presented at the next meeting. This resulted today in a correction to the September minutes from Goldenchain regarding mounting a small flag pole on the porch. This was not a consensus in the Goldenchain lane meeting, but a suggestion by one person.

Crosswalk signs

Crabapple would like a crosswalk at the end of their lane. Aspen would like one to the garden. General feeling that the signs have been effective but not 100% for Goldenchain and Hawthorn

lanes. Cindy is going to be replacing 15 mph signs because she thinks they are too small. We can ask for another one.

Flag

A Goldenchain conversation brought out feelings about what it means to be a citizen of this country. Perhaps we might have a group discussion. Claire mentioned an amusing film, What the Constitution Means to Me, that could get us going. Marlisa endorsed it as very good. Volunteers sought for a committee to decide on procedure for display of a flag on a mount on the porch railing (similar to the one for the mail flag). Virginia has volunteered, along with Ginny. Sally offered info supporting the idea that a flag can be displayed permanently if the lighting is sufficient. Is this a matter for the Council or the Association? Elly said that such a matter is brought to the lanes and then comments reviewed by the Council which sets policy.

Patio

The new patio is now complete. Funds applied for from the pandemic relief fund from Northampton for a permanent covering and the electric work. No fund raising by us needed now. Also seeking funds for internet improvement. Frustration expressed about the unreliability of the Meeting House connectivity. This meeting, for example, was not on Zoom due to technical difficulties.

Lane concerns

Hawthorn: Request for an organization chart. Can anything be done about gun noise? An old quarry is used for target practice. This is being investigated.

Facilities: There is a dead tree near the trail. The safety committee looked at it, says that the tree isn't at risk of coming down. When will moss be removed from roofs? Is there a plan for repainting or removing furniture? Not enough light on Hawthorn. When will LED lighting be installed? Freeze last night. Water needs to be turned off. Chris Hague said they don't need to be turned off. Hoses need to be removed though.

Firethorn: Flower bed at Shallowbrook entrance looking bad.

Committee reports

Land -Dale

Linden trees have been planted in the vacant lot by the community garden. We are going to do an inventory of plants residents can offer us for this area.

Bittersweet removal is underway by residents. Barbara Walvoord is coming 2 pm Saturday to meet with residents about bittersweet removal.

Program- Chris

Trying to gauge willingness to have in-person activities.

November activities were listed, including

- Van transportation to Pioneer Valley symphony.

- Monty's March to support Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Lathropites to join in Deerfield for a short march. Hilltown Charter School is our partner.
- Lunch on Friday with Monty Belmonte to discuss march which raises money for Western Mass Food Bank.
- Residents can order Thanksgiving dinners from Lathrop kitchen which are delivered the day before the holiday.
- Thanksgiving potluck in the Gathering Room on Thanksgiving Day.
- Stan Moulton coming back.

Fitness - Joe

Mind-body-spirit orientation

Will be meeting monthly. Need new members.

Tai Chi and Yoga classes now happening

Four Alexander Technique sessions starting at the end of November.

Considering other possible things such as meditation, karate, Reiki etc.

Safety - Virginia

Thanks to Chris Hague for signs.

The dead tree near the trail was viewed and felt that it was not a hazard as it was not about to fall. The lack of a safe way to cross Shallowbrook from Aspen to get to the dog park and the community garden remains an issue. It is not clear how to improve safety there, since it is too close to the turnoff from Bridge to put a crosswalk there. The Safety Committee will explore possibilities. Sidewalk? Would ruin landscaping.

Is lighting on Hawthorn a safety issue? A filter keeps it from shining in a window of someone who doesn't like it shining in, but makes the lighting dim. Will be brought up at next meeting. Also the light out on Goldenchain needs repair by an electrician.

Music- Jeff

Fourteen events now scheduled through next June. Dave raised a question about the acoustics of the room since the fabric curtains were removed. Seems to be good for musicians,.

Meeting house planning - Dave

Plan to check roof, moss. Thin plantings at entry door.

Board - Marlisa

Very gifted board. Now will meet every other month. The last meeting featured a focus session on values like the ones held for residents as part of preparation for the strategic planning retreat. How do we develop a culture of bringing out the best? What are the preferences of consumers of residential communities for seniors now? Liz Weissbach was invited to join the Board.

Management

Reports from Cindy and Rob were received in advance, as they are away at a conference. They will be sent out in addition to these minutes.

There is a new position for a "Wellness coordinator "posted on the website. Discussion followed about how this person may be deployed.

Finances - Holly

Occupancy 96% Inn
97% townhomes

Operating margin about \$600,000, twice as good as budgeted

Building our reserves

Cash on hand \$800,000 - 73 days.

Budget for 2023 will be approved in November

Improvements for the Meeting House will be included in the 5-year plan. We should come up with things we want. We shouldn't have to go it alone footing the bill.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Hyde, Secretary