

# Lathrop Association Meeting - Northampton

April 19, 2023

**Gratitudes:** To lane representatives for their service and to all who have served on Council committees and other projects benefiting the community

To the volunteers for the advisory committees supporting the Strategic Plan: Audrey Bernstein, Michael Schwartz, Margaret Zelljadt, Sonya Teter, Shelley Schieffelin for the Aging in Community Advisory Committee and George Kriebel, Dale LaBonte, Barbara Walvoord, Martha Cushman, Mary Alice Wilson, Bob Buhner and Daphne Stevens for the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee

To Cynthia Stanton for researching transportation options and arranging a meeting with a representative of the PVTA on April 24th for us to learn about what PVTA can do for us- including reduced fares for seniors

Special personal thanks from me to Claire Frierson, Judy Hyde, and Jean Shackelford, Council officers for their support over the past year (and for Judy two years)

And thanks to Cindy for this first year of her guiding our community into the future

## Comings and Goings

A moment to remember those who have left our community through death over the past year; their spirit remains with us.

John Germain, Marjorie Ewing, Bill Wallace, Joan Cenedella, Warren Hammack

## Treasurer's Report: Jean Shackelford

Account balance \$6465.55

### Additional funds as of 12/31/22

reserves-LNRA at Lathrop	\$7221
Music	\$6973
Land Conservation	\$7564
Unrestricted Funds (North & East)	\$ 5925

Approval of annual assessment of \$1 dues for the membership requirement for our newly established 501(c)(7) club.

Budget proposal for the Association-2023-24 for planning purposes

### Income

Annual fees	\$105
Annual programming fundraising	\$7,500
Special appeals/campus projects	\$5,000
Fee events (ie meals)	\$ 200

### Expenses

Jean displayed projected/possible expenses for the coming year.

Dale wondered about how SSAFE's membership fits in with the Association. How does it report to the Association? George is the official representative. He expects it to be a benefit to the new environmental stewardship committee. Carol N reviewed the history of our affiliation with SSAFE.

Jean reminded us that any of us can apply for funds for a project. Forms available.

Jean was thanked for her impressive work on our finances.

Elly announced that Jack will be leading the fund drive in May.

Report accepted.

## **Minutes of February meeting accepted**

### **Strategic plan**

Elly commended all the residents' involvement. Some of the topics under consideration such as covering for patio and use of rooms in Meeting House have competing interests and show the need for community discussion before any decisions are made .

### **Environmental stewardship**

Barbara Walvoord reported that she is now the leader of this bi-campus committee. George will be scribe. Only one meeting so far. Plan to brainstorm everything proposed for environmental amendments to green our campuses. Short term low hanging fruit will be considered first. Finally, find out who has expertise to research longer term possibilities.

### **Aging in community advisory committee**

Reviewed questionnaire results. 4 priority areas: communication and technology, accessibility and universal design, transportation and meeting spaces to support community, Back table of library has file box of resources for aging in community. As well as topics mentioned above, topic areas include home care, campus life, and resources from the larger community.

### **Transportation report - Cynthia Stanton**

Chris Hague is in charge of Lathrop's service.

#### Community options

Pioneer Valley Transportation, public/private, coming to us to explain how we can use their buses. Senior passes will be made available.

Northampton Senior Center shuttle determined by rider's needs. 9-3. 3 stops. Taxi service can be scheduled for medical appointments.

Nothampton Neighbors has volunteers to provide transport to medical appointments.

These organizational options require 48 hours notice.

Dale suggested Lathrop reinstitute a van on Sundays so we can have dinner together at the Inn.

Cindy reported a new policy to be incorporated into the revised residents' handbook: cats no longer allowed outdoors unless on leash.

### **Program committee**

Chris was commended as past chair. Shelley and Jean will be co-conveners going forward.

Upcoming: Birding 101, Sing-along, wine and cheese, UMass concert, Antarctica talk, spelling bee, picnic, program on bears.

We regret we can't offer certain programs online because of trouble accessing internet.

### **Land Conservation committee**

Dale announced a program on east campus with Kristin DeBoer from Kestrel land Trust. Invasive removal on our campus will be taken up by Land Stewardship Inc. with recommendations for the now and the future.

New tent in the woods, Broadbrook notified.

Ways to spiff up landscaping plan are being considered..

We are starting to plant your contributions in the vacant lot.

Jack was concerned about landscapers creating scars in the land or hitting the house. Holly said to let Chris know about any damage or places not seeded.

Gary said that the dramatic increase in temperature in August last year and also less rainfall means that we should be considering what kinds of plantings are advisable.

### **Meeting House**

Dave reported the committee met. Plan for plantings at entrance being developed. Hanging planters will be on the porch soon. Need more members for the committee.

### **Music**

Jeff has booked 16 concerts for this calendar year, with more to come. Many possibilities of additional performers. He was commended for his wonderful work bringing us uplifting concerts.

### **Safety**

Success getting people to walk on new sidewalk.  
Committee will be meeting in 2 weeks.

### **Fitness**

Jillian reported that a survey was launched to determine our level of exercise and wants and needs. The idea of the labyrinth is still being considered. Chris said Edwards Church would loan us a portable labyrinth we could set up in the meeting room for residents to get an idea of what it is.

Rob thanked Carol N and Rowena for leading the bones & balance class.

Fran voiced her concern that we need to continue to pay attention to covid, or any subsequent epidemics. All planning should consider safety.

### **Nominating committee**

Jack pointed out that our contract with Lathrop says that we agree to serve the community as council members.

- . Proposed slate for the coming year:
  - Co-presidents: Elly Rumelt & Chris Hjelt
  - Vice President: George Teter
  - Secretary: Alaire Rieffel
  - Treasurer: Nancy Chamberlin

### **Board**

Marlisa : new Board officers were elected. Chair: Chuck Jophnson, Vice Chair: Marilyn Richards, Treasurer: Ruth Constantine, Secretary: Lisa Halbert. The Board Assessment Questionnaire was approved to distribute to all Board members at the next meeting. We discussed

possible nominees for Board membership. The Board is currently at 18 but two will be resigning at the end of the year. We need to have between 18-20 members.

Rob gave the Board an overview of Erin's work so far. Committee members were thanked.

Carol: reported that the Board has approved the Mission and Vision statements for Lathrop after input from residents, staff, leadership and the Board. She has recently been placed on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Board Committee. That committee will be working within the framework of Kendal's DEIB Pillars (guidelines) to assess where our diversity strengths are and what our next steps need to be as we strive to become ever more inclusive.

### **Staff**

Cindy: Sarah Gauger is going to training on technology; Planning to install speed bumps here; 2 Board nominations have come from residents; Working on sound quality of the meeting room; Financial resiliency: doing well but we have a long way to go. More capital reserves needed, and cash on hand. The newly revived philanthropy committee is launching an annual fund. New business manager, Pat Kirouac starting this month. Maintenance team is looking to add a couple of candidates.

Holly: 98% occupancy. Cash continues to grow. Water and sewer rates will go up 200% in August. Carol wondered if we might get a break because of our age. Holly will find out.

Rob: How to keep involved the residents who don't participate? Personal relationships so important. Urges us to read the LampPost. FDA has approved another booster shot. He will see if it's possible to offer them on campus.

### **Lane concerns**

Elly reviewed who next year's reps will be for each lane.

She has asked Erin to consider a forthcoming list of safety issues raised by residents who want help knowing how to stay safe.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Hyde, Secretary