

Approved at August 16,
2023, Association Meeting

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON

MINUTES, MAY 17, 2023

Officers present: Elly Rumelt, President; Claire Frierson, Vice-President; and Judy Hyde, Secretary. Treasurer Jean Shackleford was out of town.

Elly Rumelt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. After a moment of silence, new residents Fran Kan and Myra and George Gordon were introduced and welcomed.

GRATITUDES:

Elly noted the following gratitudes:

-The campus has had no hospitalizations, deaths, or serious illness from Covid since the beginning of the pandemic. The pandemic has been deemed "over" by the federal government.

-The support the campus receives through the community fund annual drive is important. The annual drive is currently underway and ends June 2.

Jack Hjelt also expressed gratitude to many in the community whose efforts have been helpful, characterizing them as "unsung heroes." He also praised the work of two residents who are now members of the Lathrop Board of Directors: Carol Neubert and Marlisa Parker.

Fran Volkmann expressed gratitude to the association for their contribution to The Literacy Project in honor of the late Joan Cenedella.

Claire Frierson expressed gratitude to Cynthia Stanton for organizing a visit by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority that will ease greater participation in public transportation by residents who no longer drive.

Judy Hyde expressed gratitude to Bob Buhner, Dale LaBonte, and others for their efforts in support of the community garden.

Carol Neubert expressed gratitude to Chris Hjelt as head of the Program Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer is traveling but left word that there was only one checking transaction since her last report.

MINUTES

There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting and they were approved. Minutes of past meetings are now on the web at "Lathropres.org" as well as in the library.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jack Hjelt presented the report of the Nominating Committee, noting that these offices come with "aspirin and drinks of choice." The slate is:

Co-chairs: Elly Rumelt and Chris Hjelt

Vice-president: George Teter

Treasurer: Nancy Chamberlin

Secretary: Alaire Rieffel

There were no other nominations and these new officers were approved without objection.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Responding to residents' intention that Lathrop support "Aging in Community," those present on Zoom were divided randomly into six "rooms" and asked to report back with 3 to 5 suggestions of concrete ways this support can be manifested. Those suggestions were collected by Carol Neubert, were presented later in the meeting, and are attached below.
2. Cindy Jerome, CEO, commented on the following concerns:
 - "Houseless" individuals on campus: With warmer weather the presence of non-residents has increased. Many are community members accessing our trails and are welcomed, but others have been tapping into our electrical supply at outdoor outlets both at the Meeting House and behind individual residences. On one occasion someone moved furniture on the porch to create a shelter there. Chris Hague expressed concerns that this may create a fire hazard. Chris asked residents to call the police at their non-emergency number (413-587-1100) to report such activities. (Chris noted that the Northampton Police are "sensitive" to the challenges of "houseless" individuals and do not bully them.). Individuals are discouraged from confronting interlopers but if desired can say something like, "you know, the police have increased their patrols...."
 - Efforts continue to improve "Aging in Community" at Lathrop. Two advisory committees of residents have been meeting, one concerning Aging in Community and one concerning Environmental Stewardship. They will shortly be presenting their reports, which will be advisory to the Strategic Plan.
 - Noting that there were concerns about a recent request for contact information of individuals who might be willing to donate to Lathrop, Cindy pointed out that financial resilience is a key objective of Lathrop and this is an effort to build an annual fund drive.

- One senior living community, Kendal Crosslands, is de-affiliating from Kendal. Kendal is looking for a new CEO. Being an affiliate of Kendal provides savings for Lathrop, such as reduced health insurance rates for employees.
3. Chris Hague, Director of Facilities, reported on current concerns.
 - Chris reiterated his concerns about non-residents using exterior outlets.
 - The police have been doing late night patrols and will stop anyone who is out past midnight.
 - Motion detecting lights have been ordered.
 - Chris noted that there are many work orders for Spring Valley Landscaping, such as removal of overgrown shrubs. Recently a branch that was broken in a windstorm penetrated the house of a resident. He noted that white pines are soft and some need to be removed for safety reasons.
 - Speed bumps will be installed soon.
 - There is a shortage of maintenance staff. Currently only two maintenance employees are available. Chris has reached out to Smith Vocational School to consider instituting an apprenticeship program.
 4. The suggestions of the six breakout rooms were summarized by Carol Neubert and are attached. These include making coffee available in the kitchen of the Meeting House, resumption of dinner at the Inn (with van transportation), and a better way for people to participate via Zoom. Chris Hjelt will prepare a report, which will be distributed and will also be available in the Meeting House for residence to comment. Cynthia Stanton commented that Lisa and Samson of Food Services have worked with the Food Committee and are committed to making improvements.

Shelley Schieffelin reported on the Program Committee. The previous chair of the committee, Chris Hjelt, left it "in fabulous shape." They are looking for ideas for future programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Alaire Rieffel, Secretary

ATTACHMENT:

SUMMARY OF BREAKOUT ROOMS

Ways to connect 2. Homebound included 3. Mobility/health issues

1	Structure space in MH for better use: conference room under utilized; areas specified for games, reading, socializing, etc.
1	More activities needed in the winter
1	May be pressure to participate on those who want to be alone; Lane reps good way to determine who wants to be included and who needs help to be included and who does not want to be included (meeting just for lane reps to discuss lane rep issues) More data needed: who does not want to participate on zoom; who wants to participate but can't; who can't get into zoom or doesn't know how to use it; how do we educate people about zoom
1	Ask new residents to ACCOMPANY us to events, walks, etc. Not just tell them about it
1	Evening driving a problem for many; need more van availability in the evenings;
1	Dinner partners on zoom; as well as game nights and discussions
1	coffee available during certain hours and sometimes snacks with it; weekly luncheons; Inn meals in the MH once a week;
1	Games/activities (indoors and outdoors) specified on Fitness Survey but need people to step up to lead/organize them
2	Walk Around revived, sit out on porches for people to stop by
2	Better IT help available; who doesn't have zoom?; who needs help accessing zoom:
2	Sitting out for walk around for those who can't walk; ways to get around campus
3	Research: do we need rides to get to the MH; is ramp to lower level not sufficient
3	Get to know The Inn better in case they might want to transition there a familiarity has already been formed

