*Approved August 21, 2024*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY 15, 2024, ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON CAMPUS

Officers present: Chris Hjelt (presiding), Co-chair; Elly Rumelt, Co-chair; George Teter, Vice-President (on Zoom); Nancy Chamberlin, Treasurer; Alaire Rieffel, Secretary.

Staff present: Patrick Arguin, CEO; Kathi Brown, Director of Human Resources; Sarah Gauger, Director of Resident Service; Paul Kane, Facilities Manager; Donna King, Northampton Office Coordinator; Holly Smith-Bové, CFO (on Zoom); Rob Olmstead, Director of Wellness and Care Coordination.

Following a moment of silence, Chris noted several comings and goings: Former long-time resident June Morse died a few months ago; Jo Davis, Rebecca Wondriska, Gary Fey and Meg Lindsey all moved to other communities, and Mary Alice and Bill Wilson are both at Linda Manor.

Minutes of Last Meeting: The Proceedings of the last Association meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: The report of the Treasurer is attached.

Old Business:

Baked Goodies: Nancy reported on our contribution of 14 plates of home-made cookies to three shifts at Northampton Fire and Rescue. The contributions were well received, and Nancy hopes to continue the practice and add the Northampton Police in the future.

Support for the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department appeal: Chris opened the discussion about potential contributions to the fund drive for the new Emergency Department at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital. This item had been discussed extensively at the April Association meeting without resolution.

Chris posed several questions designed to determine our “baseline,” *i.e.*, what we could all agree on. The initial question of whether the residents had any reason for individuals NOT to contribute. No reasons were voiced. She next asked if residents objected to bundling individual contributions. Several residents expressed concern that our contributions would be lost among larger ones, but it was also noted that grant applications that Cooley-Dickinson may make in the future are likely to note smaller contributions as an indication of broad community support. Chris asked then if anyone objected to bundling individual contributions with a $250 contribution from the Association. No one objected. Therefore, we agreed to bundle individual voluntary donations made out to the hospital by residents and combine those donations with a donation from our Residents Association of $250, the maximum allowed by our bylaws.

This process could take place over two weeks in late June after the Community Fund Appeal is complete. We realize that we will always be small potatoes in a large community effort like this, but we would like for the hospital to see us as grateful individuals and a grateful organization.

Bylaws Revision: Residents at the previous Association meeting also discussed changes in the bylaws to enable contributions higher than the current $250 maximum. This proved a complicated task, and a Bylaws Committee was established to bring forward recommendations in a year.

Staff Reports with reflections of the past year and progress towards longer term goals:

CEO Patrick Arguin: Noting that he has now completed his first six months as CEO, Patrick has endeavored to spend time on each campus getting to know individual residents. The staff has developed a “Mission, Vision and Values” statement. The mission is to enhance the experience of aging, influenced by Quaker values. The Vision is that this will be accomplished through the efforts of residents, staff, and the Board. The frequency of Board meetings will be increased to monthly. The Values category will include the traditional Quaker values of SPICES, *i.e.,* simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

Items that will receive particular attention in coming months are fire safety training, hazard vulnerability, active shooter training, handling a violent person situation, and videos of Friends Service Committee. He noted that some residents need to be reminded that staff are colleagues, not servants, and deserve our respect.

An *ad hoc* Space Committee has been formed as part of the Strategic Plan. This Committee is looking at the Inn and the Meeting House to identify underutilized space that might be repurposed. In addition, the kitchen at the Inn is outdated—it was last updated in 2005. The Buildings and Grounds Committee approved hiring an architect to review plans dated years ago to determine the feasibility of various projects.

A new DEIB statement has been approved. It reads, in part, that “The Lathrop Community strives to be rich in diversity…it welcomes unique experiences and strives to make all residents feel safe and to have a sense of belonging.”

An application has been submitted to city authorities for permission to demolish the “Blue House” on the corner of Shallowbrook and Bridge Road. This does not signify a firm intent to demolish the structure but is meant to reduce potential delays in the event a demolition is chosen in the future.

Holly Smith-Bové, CFO, presented a FY 2022 and 2023 consolidated report. Our assets have increased by about $600,000 while our liabilities have decreased by approximately the same amount. Our revenue was $71,000 over budget and our expenses were under budget. Our goal is to have 150 days of cash on hand, and we have 156 days plus a $1 million line of credit.

Paul Kane, Facilities Manager, reported that there are three maintenance staff members on call, plus Diane when needed. They have purchased a new trailer and truck to replace vehicles that were old and needing excessive maintenance.

Rob Olmstead, Director of Wellness and Care Coordination: Rob remarked that the wellness staff is focusing on being proactive, and sponsoring programs such as driving safety, wellness articles, etc., which are all on the resident website. He encouraged residents not to wait to reach out to Erin Curtin, Wellness Coordinator, if they anticipate need for support, such as an upcoming surgery. By having needed items in place before a resident returns home from the hospital, for example, the transition to home can be much easier.

Kathi Brown, Director of Human Resources: We still have one vacancy for a facilities person and another for a resident engagement coordinator. In addition, the kitchen needs a part-time culinary assistant and a prep cook. We are losing seven persons from the wait staff who are, for example, leaving for college. An employee satisfaction survey indicated that lack of communication is a key problem and more frequent staff meetings are being held as a result. Lathrop provides most of the “most wanted” benefits, such as health insurance.

Sarah Gauger, Director of Resident Services, reported that Touch Town training is underway, with more sessions scheduled.

Board Reports: Elly has been coordinating resident members of Board committees. At the current time only the Board’s investment committee is uncovered.

Marlisa Parker (who is both a Board member and a member of the Philanthropy Committee) noted that Lathrop is about to begin the Annual Appeal. Jennifer Kinsman, who was recently hired to help with fund raising, has been a “huge help.”

New Business: Chris asked if there were nominations from the floor for new officers, and there were none. Accordingly, the officers the officers proposed by the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year were elected as follows:

Sue Bastek, President

Richard Hutton, Vice-President

Nancy Chamberlin (continuing as Treasurer)

Alaire Rieffel (continuing as Secretary)

The new and continuing lane representatives were announced:

Aspen: Joe Kulin and Edie Denney

Butternut: Nancy Felton

Crabapple: Rowena Roodman

Dogwood: Michael Schwartz

Firethorn: Joan Bernardini

Goldenchain: George Teter

Hawthorn: Martha Cushman

Closing:

In closing the Annual Meeting, Chris noted that this has been a “standout year,” due in large part to strong committees. Chris provided a slide show of Lathrop scenes with an appreciation to the following for their efforts during the past year:

Audrey Bernstein, who is there for residents in their “most vulnerable times,” by convening groups on caregiving, bereavement, and aging gracefully,

Jeff Mitchell and his Music Committee for our terrific music program,

To David Morrissey for our well-selected films,

To Shelley Schieffelin and Jean Shackleford for a remarkably successful Program Committee,

To Joan Laird, Myra Gordon and Carol Neubert for the book groups they have led,

To Lisa and the cooks at the Inn for our monthly lunches here as well as the monthly van trips to the Inn for dinner.

To Carol Neubert and Rowena Roodman for support for the Habitat for Humanity mailing and the Survival Center—Lathrop volunteers filled 5000 bags for the Survival Center and assembled 8000 pieces of mail for Habitat!

To George Gordon for Lathrop’s first Chanukah, which created a “sacred space” for us,

To Fran Kan for her class entitled “Everyone can Draw,”

To our Team of Spellers, who had another successful year,

To the Fitness Committee for Bones and Balance, Rob’s chair yoga and other programs,

To Pamela and Jarice for their presentation of “A Child’s Christmas in Wales

To Sidney, congratulations on his 99th birthday. He is still writing letters to the editor of the Gazette!

To Claire for inaugurating the Thursday café,

To our new staff, Paul, Jennifer and Patrick, for all they do,

To Donna for making our lives run smoothly and with great cheer,

And finally, to Chris and Elly for their service as Co-Presidents and to George Teter for his service as Vice-President in the last year.

The meeting was adjourned for celebratory cake and coffee.

Respectfully submitted, Alaire Rieffel

ADDENDA:

Report of the Treasurer:

Lathrop North Residents Association checking account at Florence Bank:

    Account balance 5/15/2023      $5965.55

    Expenditures 5/2023-5/2024  $1597.59

    Account balance 5/15/2024      $4367.96

      (includes $416.91 in checks

        outstanding)

Breakdown of expenditures 5/2023-5/2024:

    Food                                              $ 192.51

    Program Committee events      $ 350.00

    Butterfly Garden maintenance  $ 157.50

    Miscellaneous                              $ 897.58

          BLM signs

          Thank you gifts

          Sound system accessories

          Flowers for events

    Total                                                $1597.59

Lathrop North Residents Association account at Lathrop, administered by Holly Smith-Bove:

    Account balance 5/15/2023      $14,251.00

    Expenditures 5/2023-5/2024    $  1,370.50

    Account balance 5/15/2024      $13,880.50

Breakdown of expenditures 5/2023-5/2024:

    Butterfly garden maintenance    $    337.50

    Program events                            $  750.00

    Food events                                  $  283.00

    Total                                                $ 1,370.50

Submitted by Nancy Chamberlin, Treasurer

Report of the Music Committee:

**Music North Association Report, 5/15/24**

Listed below are concerts currently scheduled for the rest of 2024. With luck we’ll add one more this summer or fall, as well as a full slate next year. This year’s Association Community Appeal will supports musicians’ fees, so we hope for a generous response.

Jeff Mitchell, for the Music Committee

**May 19: The Hampshire Trio (Sarah Briggs, Gregory Hayes, Chris Mortensen)**

Briggs (violin) and Hayes (piano) have played great Haydn and Schubert for as members of the Hampshire Trio. They'll return in a new trio with French-hornist Chris Mortensen and a program including the beautiful horn trio of Johannes Brahms.

**June 9: Peter Blanchette**

The inventor and master of the archguitar, with music ranging from Bach suites to traditional Irish melodies to works of the present day.

**June 23: The Wise Guys** and **On That Note**

Two of our region's favorite a-cappella singing groups, offering upbeat classic and contemporary pop songs, and traditional folk songs. Both groups are directed by Jeff Olmstead.

**July 7: Mountain River Taiko**

A Taiko (“drum” in Japanese) is an ensemble of players on drums and accompanying instruments. This group—the only one of its kind in our region—builds intercultural awareness by sharing its joyful (and “thunderous”) percussive art.

**August 18: Dear Ella (Annie Patterson, Ann Percival, & Mary Witt)**

Three talented and seasoned musicians, accompanying themseles on banjo, uke, snare, and bass, come together in 3-part harmony for songs in genres including swing, R&B, and acoustic folk.

**September 8: Abbracci Libero (Eveline MacDougall and John Clark)**

Working jazz, classical, traditional, and  contemporary genres, (Clark on French horn and electric bass) and MacDougall (on violin, accordion, and viola) offer fresh takes on old favorites as well as original compositions and arrangements.

**October 6: XO Planet (Angie Shyr and Chris Cheek)**

These multi-talented multi-taskers (Angie mainly but not only a violinist, Chris mainly but not only a saxophonist) have jazz, classical, and rock backgrounds. They love and play everything from Scott Joplin to J.S. Bach, with much in between.

**October 27: The Ephemeral Stringband**

Drawing from oldtime stringband music, early country and bluegrass, and shape note sacred hymns, this group combines skillful instrumental playing with close harmony singing to enrich the living tradition of American music.

**November 24: Olga Vinokur**

The New York Times has described this pianist’s playing as “exquisite” and praised her “colorful, finely balanced” performances and “the strength and consistency of her artistry.” The BBC sums her up as “superlative.”

(Continues.)

**December 22: Laura Wetzler**

This critically acclaimed singer-songwriter tours in over 150 concerts and talks each year, singing contemporary folk/Americana originals, world Jewish roots music in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino, and the great classics of American songwriting.

**And More**

We may be able to schedule an additional concert this summer or fall. And several groups were interested but unavailable in 2024, among them Sophie et Adam, Novi Cantori, Les Boulevardiers, and a group focused on west African drumming. We’ll aim add them to our list for 2025.