Approved at June 19, 2024 Council Meeting

Minutes OF THE MARCH 21, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING

Northampton campus, Lathrop Community

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

Lane Representatives Present; Pamela White and Sally Ives, Aspen; Nancy Felton, Butternut; Rowena Roodman, Crabapple; Sue Bostek, Dogwood; Jean Krogh, Firethorn; Chris Hjelt (for Sarah Ismail), Goldenchain; Richard Hutton, Hawthorn.

Staff Members present:  Holly Smith-Bové, CFO; Sarah Gauger, Director of Resident Services; Erin Curtin, Wellness Coordinator.

Comings and Goings:  Gary Fey and Meg Lindsay have moved from Butternut Lane to a continuing care community near Boston.

Gratitudes:  Residents expressed appreciation to Dale for her work on composting, to Erin for being proactive in providing valuable practical information, to Donna for her Friday notes, to the residents who have celebrated Women’s History Month with a film and programs, and to all for the livelier food events in the Meeting House in recent months.

Proceedings:  The Proceedings of the last Council meeting, January 2024, were approved with corrections requested by Jean Krogh, thereby becoming Minutes.

Treasurer’s Report:  Nancy Chamberlin presented the Treasurer’s report.  In our Northampton account the balance is $4,512.95 and the balance in the Lathrop-managed account is $13,080.50.  A check for $400 was given to the Program Committee for honoraria for performances.  The report was approved.

Old Business:

Gifts:  Nancy reported on her conversations with staff for the rescue and fire squads that service the Northampton campus.  There are 4 shifts daily, each with 14 or 15 individuals.  Homemade baked goods would be especially appreciated.  This topic will be presented to the next Association meeting.

Bylaws:  Elly asked each lane rep for their lane’s response to proposed changes in bylaws.  Jean proposed adding wording to clarify the last section, and that suggestion was accepted.  Jean also proposed an additional bylaw change that would reduce the number of Council and Association meetings to five meetings each annually.  This discussion will be forwarded to the lanes for consideration and approval at the next Council meeting.

Proposed Gift to Cooley-Dickenson for Emergency Room Improvements: Richard said that Hawthorn Lane residents felt that the proposed amount of $2,000 to $3,000 wasn’t high enough.  Others asked for clarity as to whether individuals could add to the pool of money.  Elly concluded that the sense of the Meeting is residents would like to bring this question forward to the Association.  Individuals can contribute additional funding to this gift.  We need to clarify whether we should make a joint gift with the Easthampton campus.  The Development Office and the Board’s Philanthropy Committee should be involved.

Lane Concerns:

Butternut asked about the status of the flagpole that has been left lying on the ground near the Meeting House.  Holly responded that Patrick has a plan to install it at the entrance to the campus.

Crabapple responded to the request for feedback on the breakout sessions at a previous meeting.  The breakout sessions worked well, according to residents.  Residents would have liked a presentation from Vassar Byrd, the new CEO of Kendal.  It is expected, however, that this will happen at a future date.  Residents asked that in the future they be given advance notice of the arrival of Spring Valley to do noisy work, especially before early morning arrivals.

Firethorn:  Firethorn residents hope that Spring Valley can start using electric equipment, to reduce noise and pollution.  Holly responded that they have priced this change, and it would cost $150,000 to $200,000 and necessitate an increase in the monthly rates that residents pay.

Goldenchain:  Chris, reporting for Sarah Ismail, noted that the detention pond on their lane is set to be tested weekly, but hasn’t been tested recently.  Residents asked landscapers to discontinue their practice of dumping leaves into the pond.

Goldenchain residents also expressed uncertainty about the new transportation fee structure.  Sarah Gauger reviewed alternative options.  In particular, residents had expected routine trips to doctors, etc., to be free.  Holly noted that free trips is not in the contract residents sign with Lathrop.  Chris distinguished between trips for medical appointments and trips for shopping or lunches.

Chris also noted the overcrowding of coats on the coat rack during winter months and the delay in resuming van trips to the Inn for dinner, which were cancelled during covid but not yet resumed.

Committee Reports:

Environmental Stewardship Education Committee:  Myra Gordon described new initiatives of this committee, including an environmental movie series.  Each month will have a theme, such as “water” for the month of April.  There is a new environment book group; copies of the books are in the library.  There will be a service project to stuff bags to trap runoff to help keep streams clean.

Fitness:  Joe Kulin reported that the Fitness Committee hopes to provide an acupuncture demonstration and lecture.  The recent survey also had strong support for strength training and a walk through a nature reserve, which was very popular last year.

Safety:  Virginia Irvine reported on activities of the two-campus Safety Committee.  This committee is preparing a report on hazard vulnerability, *e.g.,* fires.  The safety of the crossing of Shallowbrook near Bridge Road continues to be a concern.    A speed table was planned during Chris Hague’s tenure, but Holly reported that this is now uncertain.  Pam expressed continued concern about speeding on Bridge Road, but having installed a turn lane at Shallowbrook, the city seems unwilling to invest additional funds for work at that location.  Myra noted that the parking lot at the Meeting House is very dark at night.

Music Committee:  Jeff Mitchell provided a written report which is attached.

Land Conservation Committee:  Barbara Walvoord noted that the Land Conservation Committee isn’t the same as the Environmental Stewardship Education Committee (above).  The Land Conservation Committee has plans to upgrade trails, to continue to remove invasives and is coordinating with the city of Northampton.

Board Committees:

Philanthropy:  Peter van Pelt reported that this committee is working on a gift acceptance policy and is studying the financial needs of Lathrop *e.g*. the annual fund.

Strategic Planning Committee:  This committee is refining the goals of Lathrop.  The former 5 goals have been reduced to three (the 2 dropped goals were considered more “operational.”)  The remaining goals including a new commons building in Easthampton and possible new townhomes, environmental stewardship, and financial resiliency.

Management Reports:

Administration: Sarah reported for Patrick, who is away at a conference.  Vassar Byrd, the new CEO of Kendal, visited both campuses in March.  A new facilities manager has been hired, to start on April 15.    An employee engagement survey has been distributed.

Resident Services:  The administration is in the process of hiring a residents engagement person; the job description for this position has been expanded.  The new Touch Town intranet system continues to be developed.  About 5 residents per campus are set to test it.  Sarah will schedule a demonstration and a series of training sessions.  Myra asked that a separate tab be included for a direct link to the Environmental Stewardship Education Committee and that a link be printed in the Lamppost.  Sarah noted that Touch Town is now just an information source because all residents are not using the internet.

Finance:  Holly reported that occupancy remains at 99% for townhouses and 98% for the Inn.  We have 201 days of cash on hand.  The installation of shower heads to reduce waste of water has been completed.  In the spring buildings will be winterized with blow-in insulation in garages and dens, starting with the Inn.  These services are free to Lathrop.

Scott has left our maintenance staff, and Nathan Lapointe has been hired. Drawings of a new elevator have been made with placement options to demonstrate which spaces would be affected.  A plan to add solar capability to the Meeting House is being developed.  A new canopy for the outdoor patio has been ordered.  Chris Hjelt noted that before trees and shrubs can be added near the Meeting House, clarification is needed to ensure that there will not be a conflict with solar panels.

Joe Kulin asked what return we are receiving on our cash-on-hand accounts and was told it is 5%.

Health and Wellness:  Erin reported that a new strength training class is coming soon.   There will be a covid vaccination clinic here on May 8.  She asked that residents who have surgery scheduled reach out to her in advance so their needs upon return home can be anticipated and provided.

A very happy birthday is wished for Sydney Moss, who participated in the Normandy invasion in 1944, and who will turn 99 on April 1.

Respectfully submitted, Alaire Rieffel, Secretary

Music Committee Report for Council Meeting of 3/20/24

Below are all the confirmed upcoming Music North concerts for 2024. Several more are in the works.  We aim to end up with a total of at least 18 during this calendar year. —Jeﬀ Mitchell, for the Music Committee

March 24: Mark Fraser and Jerry Noble (at 4:30pm)

Cellist Mark Fraser and Pianist Clifton (Jerry) Noble—two of the Pioneer Valley's finest musicians, return for a characteristically exciting duo program.

April 14: Adrianne Greenbaum and Allison Monroe

Flutist Adrianne Greenbaum shines in both klezmer and classical music. She'll be joined by baroque violinist Allison Monroe in an "April in Paris" program with a few extra wrinkles.

April 28: Northampton Flutes (Note changed date; was April 7.)

Three fine flutists—Sue Kurian, Nancy Janoson, and George Owens—oﬀering music from the

Renaissance to today on an array of flutes of all sizes, from tiny (piccolo) to enormous (contrabass).

May 19: Sarah Briggs, Gregory Hayes, and a third musician 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 either a cellist or a horn player. This mystery will be solved—stay tuned!

June 9: Peter Blanch, 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.

September 8: Abbracci Libero ("Free Hugs" in Italian), with 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.

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."

Additional concerts are now being scheduled for 2024.

**MARCH 2024 PROGRAM COMMITTEE Council Report**

*Members of the Program Committee: Jean Shackelford, Shelley Schieffelin, Martha Cushman, Judy Buhner Gillian Morbey, Sarah Ismail, Miriam Moss, Helen Engeseth, Judy Hyde, Dave Morrisey*

Please note: Shelley Schieffelin and Jean Shackelford will be stepping down as Program Committee co-chairs as of the May Association Meeting. Both will continue serving on the Program Committee.

Since last month the Program committee has worked with and publicized the following programs:

**FEBRUARY**

Friday, February 23, 12:00 $9.50 Lunch Meeting House. (take away or covid protocol)

Saturday and Sunday, February 25, Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show, Smith Vocational High School $5.00 admission.

Tuesday, January 27, 10-12 Art Room, Everyone Can Draw

Wednesday, February 28, 10:00 – 12:00 Eric Carle Museum, Carpool Alphabet Soup: How Picture Books Are Made, From A to Z

Thursday, February 29, 10:00 to 11:30, Thursday Café

Thursday, February 29, 11:30 Gathering Room, Leap Year Winter Warmer Soup Potluck $5 –

**MARCH**

Saturday, March 2, 2:00 Pioneer Valley Improv Group Happier Valley Comedy

Wednesday, March 6, 2:00 *Barbie*

Thursday, March 7, 10:00 to 11:30, Thursday Café Thursday, March 7, 2 pm Part 1 Writing a Woman’s Life, introduced by Joan Laird. Part 2 is scheduled for March 28th.

Wednesday, March 13 Opera (4hrs 25 min) Van

Wednesday, March 13, Wine and cheese with Vassar Byrd

Thursday, March 14, 9:00 to 11:30, Expanded Thursday Café conversations with Vassar Byrd.

March 14, 12:00 Gathering Room Pi Day 3.14

March 18th 3:00. Deb Ondo Food Bank Speaker

Coming in March and early April:

The Program Committee has also been working on writing its procedures and revising the existing forms for activities.

The current committee has been operating under the following procedures:

**Program Committee Operating Procedures**

Members of the Program Committee are always happy to have resident suggestions for current and future programming.  However, it is important to understand that the Program Committee doesn't have the ability to undertake all the suggestions because of time constraints and human resource constraints. (We don't have an Activities Director and the only Lathrop staff member in Northampton is Donna.  Our understanding is that in
the past there was a much greater maintenance staff presence who often helped with set-up and clean-up for many of our programs.)   We really can’t deal with a suggestion that is simply "Plan a program dealing with X.  "We need help with research, content, speakers, locations, etc.

Recently, after receiving resident or staff suggestions the current Program Committee has:

*1.  Worked with the person making the suggestion for a program/activity/trip/speaker to help it come to fruition fairly quickly - given timing and calendar constraints.  This means that the person making the suggestion does most of the work on the program.  Committee members may help the project continue, advertise the program, or work to schedule a trip.*

 *2.  Integrated the suggestion into forthcoming events.*

 *3.  Kept the idea on the Program Committee agenda and discussed the suggestion for future programming. Many suggestions become part of our future programming - but it may take a year or even several years for the schedule and timing to work.*

Please remember that there are revised forms available for residents who wish to reserve space in the Meeting House for both private and public uses.  They are on the wall file across from the Office.

The Program Committee encourages you to continue to bring suggestions to us since most of our program is the result of resident suggestions.