

AGENDA NILMA MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

2:00 PM

GREAT MEADOW HALL

Call to Order

Len Green

Approval of October 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Exterior decorations and storage

Steve Colwell

Medical Practices Committee Report

Gerry Berenholz

Trust and Transparency Committee Report

Nancy Kummer

Landscape Committee Report

Jay Berkson

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Call to Order

Len Green

Meeting was called to order at 2 PM by Len Green, President.

Present: NILMA members Len Green, Raya Dreben, John Averell, Arnie Heiger, Bob Sandman, Gloria Lerner, Howard Cohen, Sue Waxman, Jerry Sands, Betty Rosencranz;

with Steve Colwell, Marilyn Stone.

Absent were: Jay Berkson

Approval of October 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 8 without change. The motion passed unanimously.

Hebrew Senior Life Hospice Care

Rabbi Herman Blumberg

Len introduced a guest speaker not originally on the agenda, Rabbi Herman Blumberg, Rabbinic Director of HSL Hospice Care.

Rabbi Blumberg distributed a brochure to the council members explaining HSL Hospice care. He stated his primary purpose for this short visit is to ask that each NILMA council member invite him to speak at a floor meeting in order to present and discuss the Hospice program that HSL offers.

John asked if any days and hours are preferable for a floor meeting appearance. Rabbi said almost anytime, since if he cannot attend, another representative will be available. Tues, Wed, and Thurs are days he is usually here. His phone number here at NBOC is 781-234-9950.

Exterior decorations and storage

Steve Colwell

Steve gave his experience with a cottage couple recently moved in, who had a large sculpture that they would like to place outside but near their apartment. After discussions with Sue and Howard and Steve, a desirable location was found that was acceptable to all parties – not detract from other cottage's appearance.

This led Steve to want a more general dialog on the subject. By convention, everything inside the physical walls of the apartment belongs to the resident; everything outside the walls is community property. According to the Resident Handbook, anything placed outside the walls requires prior approval by the Executive Director of NBOC.

Steve has been quite lenient about minor items, which seem generally acceptable. However he has noted items like trash barrels, storage bins, and sculpture near apartments. Some complaints have been made about how people decorate their area. The question is: at what point do we want the community to

decide, and at what point do we want the residents to decide. Should there be guidelines set?

Betty felt that the bylaws should be strictly followed: nothing without approval. Sue agreed. Without a firm policy, it becomes a matter of personal taste. Howard agreed completely with both speakers.

Len raised the question of residents on the ground floor with patios and areas where flowers and pots are placed. Steve responded that these are "outside the walls" by definition.

Steve asked if there could be a process for decision.

Marilyn felt that permanent structures like sculptures should need approval, while flowers, for example, should be allowed as beautifying. Others felt that the bylaws should be followed strictly.

Steve offered the following process. If he receives a concern about such an issue, he will first forward the concern to the party to see if a simple resolution can be reached. If not, he may opt to turn it down without recourse on his own judgment. More similar discussion ensued.

Len asked if Steve was offering to be the adjudicator. He asked how the council felt about this. Arnie asked if Steve was asking for a committee. Steve said that he was not.

Len pointed out that as an example, resident reaction to the sculpture that appeared at the main entrance was so negative, that the placement was changed completely. This is perhaps the ultimate option available to residents to Steve's decision on such matters. In any case, the Executive Director has the ultimate approval per our bylaws.

Medical Practices Committee Report

Gerry Berenholz

The Medical Practice Committee has met twice since the last report to NILMA. The minutes of the report are contained as an attachment to these minutes.

Also attached is a list of questions for Security RE: Medical Responses.

Jerry Sands asked if she would be willing to come to floor meetings. Gerry Berenholz agreed that she would do so after the Medical Practices December 3 meeting.

Trust and Transparency Committee Report

Nancy Kummer

The purpose of the Trust and Transparency Taskforce is to facilitate open and clear communication between administration and residents. We meet monthly to discuss a wide variety of issues, including NBOC policies and procedures, hiring and firing of key personnel, and concerns about upcoming changes -- always with an eye toward better understanding

between administration and residents. Steve Colwell uses the T&T committee as a sounding board and we bring resident concerns to him, so that communication is kept open and clear.

We have met three times thus far this fall. Agenda items have included: Centro staffing needs and changes, problems with IT, efforts to improve the front desk "One Stop" system, and the process of reviewing food pricing in order to make the necessary changes to reduce the cost overage. Our committee's focus is always on PROCESS -- how things are done here, and how we can improve the way things are done. Several residents have brought their concerns to us recently, and we want residents to know that they can use T&T as a conduit for open two-way communication between members and management.

Len said that he has been approached by several residents on the subject of holiday decorations. He asked if her committee has had discussions on the subject, and if not would they be willing to undertake the discussion to help formulate a policy.

Nancy said they had some discussion but this needs to be pursued with residents and Rabbi Judi. She felt her committee is a sounding board and does not make policy.

Betty stated that there should be some recognition of desire of some people who are not Jewish to celebrate Christmas to the extent that Jewish residents celebrate Jewish holidays.

Sue agreed and felt that seasonal holiday celebrations are appropriate in this community.

Marilyn pointed out that if we wait till next month, it will be too late to set policies. Len asked Nancy to take on a discussion in a timely manner. Nancy stated she would. Marilyn felt that this subject should come before NILMA and be worked out.

John pointed out that although he himself, being non-Jewish and non-practicing Christian, has no objections to any decorations, that this is almost certainly not true for everyone who is Jewish. Because of the very wide range of religious convictions in the community, some will take offense to any holiday decorations that are frequently used at Christmas, while others consider them simply holiday decorations appropriate to the season. The subject is very complicated.

Steve recounted the historical planning of NBOC. Initially no decorations were allowed. As time progressed, requests for decorations for Hanukkah, Easter, Christmas, and other basically sectarian celebrations have been made. He looks for the space where everyone can be satisfied and respected.

Steve pointed out that most of the Staff members are not Jewish and should be considered in this issue.

Len asked Nancy to take on this question and report back in two weeks. She agreed.

Since Jay was not able to attend this meeting, his report is postponed until December.

Old Business

Steve reported on the sign move promised at the Great Meadow Rd intersection with the Stop sign. The location that was desired, across the street, could not be done because of steepness of ground. The sign company was not responding, so Tom West will have his men do the job. The direction sign will be put at the intersection, and the Stop sign moved back a bit from where it is now.

Howard suggested that all Stop signs on site be replaced by Yield signs. Arnie felt that this is an unnecessary expense, and is probably unwise.

New Business

Betty had been concerned with the lack of emergency buttons to call Security from within the garage. She has since been told that there are pendant buttons outside each garage vestibule entry. Steve confirmed this and will publicize the fact in a letter.

Raya brought up an auto accident on the entry road from Rte 135 into NBOC. The road was blocked by police, and many people could not enter for a period of time, and were not told what was going on or what to do. She asked if there is an alternate road into our campus in case of such emergencies.

Steve stated there is an emergency road that is normally closed by a gate, running from Common St Extension, behind the cottages, to a road that intersects Great Meadow Road at the Sylvia Band memorial tree grouping. In an emergency such as fire or road closure, this road can be opened for access or egress.

The Dedham Police had complete jurisdiction over this accident, as it does over the roads within the NBOC campus. Our Security force was not notified in a timely manner.

Marilyn commented that Security, although they eventually responded, did not go down the line to notify stopped cars about what was going in. Steve agreed they should have, and will talk with Security about being more proactive in such cases.

Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.