

AGENDA for NILMA MEETING

September 8, 2016, 2:00 PM

GREAT MEADOW HALL

Call to Order	John Averell
Approval of August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes	
IT Focus Group	John Averell
Landscape Committee Update	Dorrit Senior
Policy for Visiting NBOC Independent Living	Marilyn Stone
Old Business	
New Business	
Adjourn	

Call to Order

John Averell

The Meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by John Averell, president.

Present: NILMA representatives: President John Averell, Mike Atlas, Jody Berkowitz, Howard Cohen, David Goldman, Lorraine Gordon, Sharon Gouveia, Len Green, Nancy Kummer, Murray Staub, Sue Waxman

Guests: Steve Colwell, Dorrit Senior, Marilyn Stone

Approval of August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 11, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously as published.

IT Focus Group Report

John Averell

John submitted the following report:

I wrote an email to Eric Rogers, HSL CIO, saying:

Bob [Pierce] and his techs have done their job with the volunteers from the Focus Group to help evaluate the recommended answering machine. As I understand the results, of the five volunteers, only one asked to have the machine installed. The other four, after viewing the machine and asking about it, apparently had no desire to install it and try it out (for various reasons). Bob, if you have anything else to add, please do.

My feeling at this point is that if you have learned anything from this group, it is probably time to shut it down with thanks. If you think there is any virtue in having a further group meeting to talk with you, I would be glad to put it together.

Eventually, we need a presentation to NILMA giving a summary of the IT future policy at NBOC for computers, phones, and TV, so that we know what to expect. I would like very much to schedule you for October 13 for a report to NILMA. Even if all contracts are not quite complete, we would like the bones of what is planned, what will be done that involves residents, and anything that is relevant to our lives in that area.

Eric responded by email:

Bob and I convened to discuss the answering machine pilot, and yes your understanding and opinions are consistent with ours. We agree the pilot has served its purpose and exposed the group to an option to the electronic voice mail system. Bob will compile the data which I can incorporate into a presentation. I'd further inform you that the Technical Team has been addressing the previous issues with the electronic voice mail system toward the end of making it a more reliable system.

I would be happy to present to NILMA the outcome of the IT/NILMA Focus Group collaboration addressing the topics outlined below. Once again, I'd like to thank you and the volunteers of the focus group for your investment of time and energy toward the shared goal of improving IT systems and services for the NewBridge residents.

A presentation by Eric Rogers is scheduled for the October 13 NILMA meeting.

Chairman John Averell then disbanded the *ad hoc* IT Focus Group Committee, with thanks to all who participated in the discussions with Eric Rogers and Peter Ingram. The Focus Group members were: Frances Budd, Raya Dreben, Len Green, Arnie Heiger, Sheila Klein, Art Luskin, Harriet Segal, Dorrit Senior, Fran Shaer, Murray Staub, and Kathy Webster.

Landscape Committee Report

Dorrit Senior

Chairperson Dorrit Senior then presented the Landscape Committee update:

Good afternoon,

I would just like to tell you all about the recently reformulated landscape committee, who we are and what we hope to do.

There are five members on the Committee, Benita Ross, Marcia Sabbath, Myself, Lillian Starr and Fran Winneg.

We are an advisory group and plan to work together with the Landscape Team from NewBridge. They are Tom West and Scott Salvato, Kevin Freeman from American Quality Property Service, who subcontracts to HSL but spends the bulk of his time here at NewBridge, and Tom Williams, a certified horticulturist who works with Kevin.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for the Landscape Team to work individually with each resident as much as they would like. The mission of our committee is to work with the team. We are scheduled to meet together once a month.

If a resident has any concerns about plantings at NewBridge, or has any complaints, a work order should be placed through the ONE STOP SHOP (4-9500). In this way, information can always be tracked and requests can be dealt with in a timely manner.

Despite the most severe drought ever throughout Eastern Massachusetts, and the dismal conditions that exist as a result, work has begun on our property with both planting and replacements. More than 60% of what was newly planted this spring hasn't survived so that gives some idea of how severe this drought has been.

Going forward, we have already identified three areas of priority at NewBridge, (separate from the needs of residents).

They are: The main entrance into NewBridge, the area adjacent to the Villas and North and South buildings, and the entrance to the Community Center. We hope to address the first area, the Main Entrance into NewBridge, next spring.

Lastly, I would just like to add that while some plant material looks dead right now, some will revive, so we all need to be a little patient, and allow Mother Nature to play her role.

Thank you.

In answer to a question about NewBridge watering the grass during the Dedham water ban, Steve explained that we do not irrigate the lawns with Dedham water. We collect rain water in four underground cisterns. We also have a well from which water is syphoned into the cisterns when needed. The town has indicated that it has no problem with our using water from our system.

Policy for Visiting NBOC Independent Living

Marilyn Stone

John made the following remarks prior to introducing Steve Colwell:

Steve Colwell asked Marilyn Stone to form a small and balanced committee to recommend policy on visitation to IL and guidelines for aides of IL residents. After a great deal of work gathering and revising the policies, she has a version, which has been recently distributed to all NILMA reps for discussion with their respective voting units. This version is today the reference basis for finalizing policies that will be moved, discussed, and voted on by council members at this table.

A short paragraph has been added to the reference version, not changing any words, but stating that the policy as voted in this meeting will be implemented by management only

after the Member Handbook and NBOC policy are modified to allow all items voted by NILMA to be consistent with the policy.

Steve would like to comment on this condition now, before Marilyn reads the policy, so that we may hear his intent.

Steve started by thanking Marilyn and her committee for the time and effort expended in creating a policy that achieved what he had looked for: a policy that is fair, just and appropriate for the entire community. He then went on to describe goals he felt have been met: (1) the whole community has been involved in determining the policy; (2) the policy is consistent for all NBOC workers; (3) an awareness for people who have aides has been created as well as an understanding of how their presence affects the community at large; (4) the policy does not require a change in the Member Handbook. However, should there ever be a need to change the Handbook, Steve explained that that would happen only with mutual agreement between management and members.

Regarding the dining rooms, they will remain for members' use. Centro is available for IL members, their guests, and aides when accompanying members. Nosh will continue to be a public space. Should this become problematic, which Steve feels current usage does not lead him to expect will happen, then further open discussion will take place.

In answering two questions, Steve replied (1) that aides may accompany member employers dining in Nosh, and (2) conditions are stricter in the other dining rooms on campus.

Prior to introducing Marilyn, John concluded his remarks as follows:

I would like to thank Marilyn, not only on behalf of the NILMA council but also on behalf of all residents, for the excellent job she and her committee have done on this extremely difficult and delicate task. The members of the committee are:

Marilyn Stone (Chair), Murray Staub, Judy Stavis, Dorrit Senior, Lorraine Gordon, and Judi Goldman.

Let us all applaud their work.

Management and Staff who have reviewed this policy are:

Steve Colwell, Mathew Hollingshead, Scott Ariel, and David Raider

At this point Marilyn read the entire policy aloud.

David Goldman moved to accept the policy as read and distributed, and Sue Waxman seconded his motion.

Representatives from floors that had taken votes on the policy then reported, in a non-binding poll, those results:

1st floor south: Policy: 10 yes, 2 no; Guidelines: 8 yes, 6 no with some changes

1st floor north: Policy/Guidelines: 10 yes, 8 abstentions

2nd floor south: Separate Guideline rules: 49 yes, 47 no

Cottages: Policy/Guidelines: 26 yes, 1 no, 4 abstentions

2nd floor north: Policy/Guidelines: complete approval

3rd floor north: Policy/Guidelines: 11 yes, 1 no, 5 abstentions

Representatives from floors that did not take exact votes reported as follows:

Community Bldg.: Policy/Guidelines: majority agreed with exceptions

3rd floor south: Policy/Guidelines: generally supported with comments

4th floor north: Policy: Many objections

John then opened the floor to reports of floor meeting comments.

Several floors objected to the possible appearance of racial discrimination and to the size and condition of the Staff Break room; Villa residents also would allow up to 30 minutes for parking when picking up or bringing home a Member, and they objected to putting responsibility for determining and enforcing the Policy/Guidelines on the residents rather than on management.

Objectors to the use of signs were assured that the signs would be directional only and would not list prohibitions.

Other objections were raised about Nosh being open to everyone during dinner hour. Steve noted that staff and aides do not make use of Nosh at that time.

John then opened the floor to amendments.

Sharon moved **to amend the Policy to substitute the word "Nosh" for "the Winter Garden" wherever it appears. Jody seconded the motion, which passed.**

After a discussion about the need for a larger, more comfortable Staff Room, Steve assured the council that steps would be taken to make the room more attractive and more comfortable, but at this time he could not provide a larger one. However, should practice prove that the improvements he makes do not satisfy the needs of the staff, then he will "go further." **John stated that the line in the policy stating "The Staff Room needs to be improved" should be taken out, since it is not a policy statement** but a recommendation that it be done in the future. **To this end the words "the Staff Break Room" will be replaced in the policy by "a Staff Room."** The recommendation to Steve will be brought up as New Business.

Two floors preferred to remove the Library from the Policy's list of areas that are exclusively for Independent Residents only. Nancy Kummer moved to do just that. After some discussion, **her amendment was changed to read "Library borrowing privileges are exclusively for Independent Living Members." It passed with a majority vote.**

With no additional requests for amendments, a vote was taken to accept David's motion as amended. It passed with nine members in favor and two abstaining.

Old Business

Lorraine asked Steve to do something about the poor take-out service in Centro. Steve suggested talking about it later with Lorraine.

New Business

John asked Steve to provide a report next month about how the Policy rules are being enforced.

Sue brought to Steve's attention the possible need for mats outside the pool shower stalls. Steve will look into the matter.

Murray queried Steve about the process used to determine when an Independent Living Member should be transferred to Assisted Living. Steve assured Murray that the goal is to provide the best life possible for the resident. He added that this is a highly individualized situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Gordon, Secretary