

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Vestry

Mark Claverie

Darren Miller

Mary Withington

Gordon Boyd

Catherine Berheide (excused)

Mark Griffin

Jane Agee

Geneva Henderson

Sara Manny

Denise Limoli

Clergy

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker (excused)

Auditor

Eileen Wiebicke

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on October 19, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Withington began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Boyd moved to accept the minutes, Withington seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: See attached letter from Van Acker.

Building Committee Report: The Building Committee has invited Frank Zarro to sit in on committee meetings since he has experience in a variety of relevant fields. Boyd will be taking a representative from Head Start down to Belmont to see the childcare center so they can get an idea of whether they can work together. We need secure tenancies before we can secure a mortgage. AYCO expansion may lead to a parking garage on the adjacent block. Intercontinental Hotels have acquired Rip Van Dam. Boyd has reached out to IHG but hasn't heard back yet. Building Committee discussed a recommendation to the vestry for use of funds from the building fund party: a protective glazing on the Washington St. side of the church, including the 3 Tiffany windows (\$8-11,000 est.) and a hearing loop in the church to assist the hearing impaired (\$8-9,000). Boyd moved that the building committee's recommendation be approved, Miller seconded. All in favor.

Capital Campaign: Still looking for about 1.5 million from major donors. It's time to turn the campaign towards the community, which requires a complete narrative so we can convince the greater Saratoga Springs community of the project's value. Currently strongly considering renting space in the building only to non-profits at a reduced rate. This will allow us to save on income taxes, property taxes and mortgage interest rate (from 4.5% down to 3%).

Stewardship: Limoli has been working on a series of letters to the parish. Wants to address parishioner's impatience over not seeing the results of their donations because so many of the services are on hold.

Communications: Henderson reported that she's had a strongly positive response to her article addressing concerns about the apparently slow progress on the new building. Parishioners had been feeling as if their concerns were being brushed off. It's important to listen to concerns and acknowledge how people are feeling before reassuring them.

Nominating Committee: Tom Remington is too busy to be on vestry at this time. The committee is considering other names.

Property Management: Claverie reported that we'll need to inventory the parish house and start to prepare to vacate at the end of the lease term (spring 2017). Fire inspection of the church coming up on the 28th. Northshire event in the church also coming up. Need to figure out where to store some large items currently in the parish house that will need to be kept in climate controlled environment. Gave Brause's property manager permission to take down the brush and trees on the edge of our currently vacant lot

Henderson moved to approve the rector's expenses for the month, Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that the Town of Moreau's attorney suggested a reassessment for reduced taxes. HGS said no. Still on for trial. Dedication for 400 Church went well and was well attended. Mortgage application underway for rehab of 390.

Parish History: Agee reported that we're still waiting on one outstanding chapter which should be in soon. She's started talking to a designer about the layout of the book

Closing: Claverie moved to adjourn the meeting, Henderson seconded the motion which passed unanimously