

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
October 21, 2020
The Church, Washington Avenue, Saratoga Springs**

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden
Sara Manny, Treasurer
Karen Finkbeiner
Pam Houde
Field Horne
Marcia MacDonald
Steven Rucker
John Van der Veer
David Wilder
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: John Huppuch and Boomer

Guests: John Waite
Shannon Brown
Jeremy Falls

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:05pm on Wednesday October 21, 2020, at the Church, by Fr. Wallace.

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2020, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D Wilder , movant; M MacDonald , second)

Rector's remarks;

Schedule of services forwarded. Please contact Fr Wallace with any questions

New parish house update: D. Miller and guests

Still waiting on building permit. Donor expects to contract for his sale by end of October. Delay in Building permit is on account of pandemic. (ed note: the city has building permits backed up into early 2021 now)

Discussion by architects concerning construction issues:

Roof of church:

Consideration of original roofing material. Replace roof with present cladding or historically accurate roofing material. Date of building indicates the roof would not have been slate and construction of church is not sufficient to support slate. Wood shingles possible, but not in keeping with the nature of the building. Sheet metal might have been appropriate, as imported for high quality buildings in the middle of the 1800s and before.

No photos indicate what the front of the church looked like and what the roof was.

Consideration of other Upjohn buildings construction. Many had standing seam metal roofs.

Conclusion: use commercially available standing seam (painted gray) roof of carbon steel with HP resin coating or aluminum cladding (est \$300,000.000) OR replace with asphalt shingles (est \$200,000.00). Difference in longevity. Can no longer use asbestos in asphalt shingles which cuts life expectancy of asphalt shingles to 30 years; the steel roof should last 50 years or more.

Discussion of merits of architectural recommendation concerning roofing material. City Design Review Commission must permit for either asphalt or metal roof. City would prefer longer-lasting, more historically accurate metal roof so permit would be quicker.

Timeline to get roof installed: early spring, 2021. Construction firm will bid the job to at least three roofers. Intend to go out for bids by end of 2020, if City approval is given.

D. Miller moved that we seek bids for installation of a roof; F Horne, second. Discussion of other options, including re-coating current. Ayes all.

Front Steps: glass door installers suggest that the stone step just be re-set; would be inexpensive. Architects will put us in touch with masons to give estimates for the work and get the work done, along with installation of a railing, as soon as possible.

Consideration of railing to altar steps

Façade: slate color to be determined—unfading green will last >100 years (not the least expensive slate.) Must also determine the surround of the windows. Colors are complementary and in keeping with the style of the church. Brick options to be considered in re: the slates. Seeking best color and cost-effective brick. Don't want building to look like a cinder block construction. Colors of brick vary in natural daylight. Loggia and church façade colors should blend as next to each other.

Guests depart.

Treasurer's Financial Report: S. Manny/J. Van der Veer

S Manny sent September, 2020 report: no questions.

Fr Wallace asked if we can have a report in the service sheet every week with giving monthly and YTD for every Sunday following Vestry. Barbara will be looking for this on Thursday.

Proposed Budget: working on draft with Elaine presently. Sara will send a draft tonight. Looking at \$23,000.00 deficit for 2021. D Miller wants to have a budget for discussion before he addresses the parish regarding stewardship. The budget is pretty lean, but still leaves a deficit.

Commission Reports:

Stewardship: We are asking the parish to contribute \$23,000 more to cover the deficit.

There is no excess—discussion of salary/benefits.

K Finkbeiner recommends that we look at what we have accomplished and what we want to accomplish—not that we expect to make any cuts to the proposed budget. D Wilder suggests that we have already pared down the budget to show that we are saving, but there is a shortfall in covering necessary expenses. Will have a hand-out of the budget with the bulletin so that parishioners have the budget next week (Nov 2) and include regular reports in service sheet of P&P/income versus expenses. Mailing/email for next week as well.

Communications discussion to encourage parish engagement and increase in giving.

Continuing /New Business:

Property Management: Work day on Oct 24, 10-2; need Vestry help. Bethesda has a piano which is presently in storage. Piano to be placed in sanctuary may be used for SPAC concerts, etc. Remove some pews to position the piano; will save storage costs and SPAC will tune the instrument before concerts. Put piano on dolly to be able to move the instrument when needed. Discussion of possible objections to removal of pews.

SPAC exploring chamber concerts, book/author talks with Bethesda—small projects for the present. Nov 1 concert has been cancelled. Small SPAC events are not revenue-generating for the duration of the pandemic, but the connection is important for the church and community. Organ meditations in December are in connection with mid-day services. The more often the church can be open, the more we invite the community to share our parish and the building.

November 8 Vespers—reservations will be required (max about 100 people); this will also be true for Lessons and Carols, Christmas, etc. Many thanks to Beth and Tom Mueller and Diane Robinson who created the seating chart. SPAC will adopt this plan

New Business: none

Next meeting: November 18, 2020

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned by motion of D Miller; second, by M MacDonald

Passed unanimously at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk