

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
October 20, 2021
Beacon Hill Drive, Saratoga Springs

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

Absent: Darren Miller, Senior Warden

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:10pm on October 20, 2021, by Fr. Wallace

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2021, were unanimously approved as corrected. (M MacDonald, movant; F Horne, second)

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

Attended Deanery meeting including a program on safe children within the church. He suggests we are not in compliance with the requirements of the national church. All Vestry members must be trained and renewed every five years. Fr Wallace will send the link for Vestrymembers to take the course.

Fellowship opportunities: focus on parish events. The Methodist Church will allow us to use their fellowship hall. Proposed Jan 27 dinner (Thursday evening).

Suggest a new members event including the Vestry. Note that the Baptist Church will charge for the use and may limit having wine/liquor—while the Methodist Church has plenty of parking and will likely not charge. Unclear as to having wine and liquor there

Stewardship presentations: R Bullock spoke and K Finkbeiner; M Edwards and M Withington will speak at Mass.

Fr Wallace is visiting shut-ins and meeting members. Suggests that we have a visitation group, including D Wilder, K Finkbeiner, B Tasso and Fr Russo. Fr Wallace is also suggesting that the church have an end of life planning booklet for parishioners to identify their needs and choices regarding memorial/funeral services.

Need to have a Nominating Committee in place. Darren will head it as Kate is up for re-election. Officers in current roles need to be identified and/ or appointed to fill positions, including diocesan delegates, head of Altar Guild. We have no one representing us at the diocesan (convention) meeting this week, for instance. Lynn Priestley and Jeff Wentling are the deanery representatives—but no one represents us on the diocesan level. Fr Wallace will ask a parishioner to attend this virtually if it is not too late.

Fr. Wallace will be out of the office the first week of November for a diocesan clergy retreat at the Spiritual Life Center.

Fr Wallace suggests a short Vestry meeting in December and have a dinner in December including spouses. No objection raised. Propose a late Sunday evening dinner with a brief meeting preceding dinner. Suggest December 19, 2021, following the concert at church. All in favor.

Treasurer's Financial Report: K Finkbeiner, Treasurer

K Finkbeiner sent the financial report noting that, while expenses are running under budget presently, they are likely to be slightly over-budget by year end. Fortunately, P&P has improved: Sept was \$38k vs. budget of \$15k. Will still need usual high level of giving for December to finish the year with a small surplus. Positive net income through September as expenses are under budget and the PPP loan is included in revenue.

Operational income was just about the amount of the PPP loan. Without that, we would be at just about break even, rather than ahead of budget as we are now.

We have normally spent about \$1000 twice a year on organ maintenance; that has not been done this year as the organ is not being used very much. Both the organ and piano will need to be tuned as the winter comes on and, particularly, until the boilers are replaced.

Fr Wallace noted that the first two Sundays in Oct realized the usual budgeted amount in P&P for the entire month. It is hoped that giving will continue at this higher level.

Discussion of how to respond to requests for support from needy individuals in the community. We have a fund which is billed, but we are advised to refer requests to FEAST .

Motion to accept the treasurer's report. (K Berheide, moved; J Van der Veer second.) All approved.

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller --absent

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Motion to approve resolution for Adirondack Trust of the officers and clerk of the Vestry who may make changes to the investment account. (K Berheide, moved; S Rucker, second)
Unanimously approved.

Mercy House: Church loaned MH \$30,000 to be paid back when MH had an income. MH is closing their accounts and has offered to return donor funds. It seems unlikely that they will have funds to repay this loan, used for legal fees, rent, etc—not for physical expenses. Their intention is to close the MH corporation before the end of the year. K Berheide suggests we forgive this loan. Funds to be repaid at 0% interest upon generating income per original agreement. The triggering event for repayment will not take place, but nevertheless, the funds may still be in MH accounts and, in closing out the corporation, there may be money left. D Wilder suggests that the loan should not be forgiven, unless and until the end of the year when we know what, if any funds are left. As a moral consideration, we would hope that MH should pay as much as they can of this loan. Suggest that Bethesda should be treated as a preferred creditor and should be paid back after MH expenses are paid, including reimbursements of donations.

Commission Reports:

Property Management: S Rucker:

Sent a synopsis of the building projects. The roof will be done in the spring; some of the materials are on site now and the rest of the materials are to be delivered. Expect a fence to be installed. D Wilder asks if the material can be stored on Mid-State roofing's land for security. There is insurance in place to cover the materials and Mid-State will have responsibility for the materials. Difficult to remove these materials without a crane, etc.
New leak appeared—no known source. Will be addressed when roof is replaced.

South Chimney, behind the altar: originally the intention was not to remove this chimney. It isn't in the church building repair list per se and the cost and time delay were of concern. Sano-Rubin assures that the removal of the chimney will not affect the integrity of the church building; but the cost is approaching \$60K per Sano-Rubin.
F Horne asks if volunteers can remove the chimney: we could have a carpenter repair the roof rake. K Finkbeiner reports that the chimney removal is estimated to require three weeks and needs to consider the stained-glass windows adjacent. Consensus is to seek further bids for this work.

Sprinkler system still in process; requires excavation of the street and permit. Sprinkler valve leaks which means we cannot prove that the sprinkler will put out a fire. There is an excavator already working for the Van Dam Hotel on Washington St in November. Sano-Rubin has worked with the excavator and Northeast Fire to get the work done as soon as early November. Proposal that Sano-Rubin act as GC for this project. Consensus is to approve this work.

New boiler is to be delivered end October and installed in early November. If the dates slip, we may need to seek other heat sources for the beginning of November. The old boiler will be removed late this week and contractor may be able to remove the even older boiler. Issue that there is asbestos in the furnaces. While there is scrap value to the cast iron fixtures, the asbestos will make it more expensive. Motion to allow up to \$5000 for this work. Accepted by acclaim.

Railing is in the fabricator now to be installed before winter. Consideration of the fire escape next to the organ. We need a second means of egress from the main floor. This is in progress now.

Plan for drainage by JG Waite. On hold for now.

Parking; do not need Waite to work on this project. But we need parking of some sort. Two hours free is available in Brause lot. K Finkbeiner recommends against a hardscape lot as it will affect drainage. Discussion of best use of the vacant lot. There is no curb cut in the vacant lot. Is it practical and beneficial to have the lot turned into a parking lot? How would it be managed? Could the lot be limited to Bethesda use? Think of this in spring after the roof has been done.

Mercy House materials are out for bids to re-sell. The Building permit application has been withdrawn.

New Business: none

Next meeting: November 17 will be at the church office.
December 19 for dinner meeting at M MacDonald.

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned. Passed unanimously at 8:48pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk