

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
September 21, 2022
Saratoga Springs**

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer
Laura Kszan
Marcia MacDonald and Darby
Steven Rucker and Nick
Holly Sofarelli
David Wilder
Mary Withington, guest

Absent: Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Sara Manny, Junior Warden
Ann Bullock, Clerk
Mark Claverie
David MacVane

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:10pm on September 21, 2022, by Fr. Wallace

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2022, were unanimously approved. (D. Wilder, movant; K. Finkbeiner, second)

Treasurer's Financial Report: K. Finkbeiner, Treasurer

K Finkbeiner distributed her report via email noting that Year to Date August, we continue to run a substantial deficit (\$20,808) but the YTD deficit is less than in July (\$23,543). The Actual deficit is much lower than our YTD August Budget deficit (\$41,419), primarily due to generously over budget giving for Pledge and Plate and Special giving for fuel and other operational items. There is concern that end of year bump in Pledge and Plate giving may not happen. The August Special envelope giving was for the Racetrack Chaplaincy, and \$1088 was donated. Most of our Expense line items that are over budget are driven by timing issues, and these are offset by lower cost of staff with our volunteer office staff and lower organist fees than budgeted.

D. Wilder noted that our office building is under contract to be sold and raised concern that rent may increase. Fr Wallace suggested that the current office may be too much space at \$1100 a month, and it may be time to move at the end of the lease.

K Finkbeiner reported that they have followed up on applying for pandemic relief funds. The organization that we are working with will receive a 15% fee of any funds realized.

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

Fr. Wallace is happy and grateful to his volunteer office colleagues. They are doing a wonderful job. The Bethesda BBQ on Sunday afternoon was a great success. Many thanks to Marcia for opening her home to the parish, and to David MacVane for his generous gift of delicious food for all.

Executive Session:**Building Report:** M Claverie:

M. Claverie distributed his report via email in advance of this meeting.

Bonacio Construction has asked to rent the land directly to the west of the church for a term of approximately 1.5 years. Proposed terms are: The lot would have the top soil pushed back to the southward edge of the lot (towards the dumpsters) and the entire lot would have gravel laid down. A fence with privacy screening would be installed around the perimeter. An office trailer would be placed on the west side of the lot and construction parking would be sited on the east side of the lot. At the end of the project, the gravel would be removed, the soil put back, graded, and seeded. Bonacio Construction will have their own liability insurance. In exchange for the use of the lot, Bonacio Construction would agree:

1. to pay the church \$20,000 annually
2. current projects and maintenance can continue with unimpeded access to the church building (continued roof work, use of a crane for a chiller removal/installation, etc)
3. understands that sometimes events may take place at the church (funerals, weddings, etc) during the normal work week that may necessitate quiet times close to the church
4. will remove snow from the sidewalk in front of the church
5. a point-of-contact for Bonacio Construction as well as Bethesda (probably Mark Claverie).

Discussion:

Questions and concerns were raised. Will renting the lot have a negative impact on our upcoming drainage work? How much space will be left between the fence and the church building? D Wilder noted we must make sure that collecting rent will not jeopardize our not-for-profit status. What type of vehicles will be using the lot. Is there a vibration risk to our windows and structure? Is there a compression risk that may affect our drainage?

Agreed that S Rucker, Fr Wallace, D Wilder and L Kszan will meet to investigate and organize an inquiry to our lawyer.

Continuing Business:

Once more we addressed potentially reducing the number of Vestry to 9 persons. As set out below, the Vestry must vote to change the bylaws at a meeting called for that purpose, then submit the change to the Standing Committee for approval. The change does not need to be voted upon by the parish at large. This topic will be addressed again at the next meeting. As part of the discussion D Wilder suggested that we need an indemnity insurance policy for all members of the Vestry.

**Clerk's note: Section 4 of the Parish Bylaws, adopted January 18, 2017, requires four Officers of the Parish. In addition, (Sec 4.2) there shall be nine additional vestrypersons. Section 15 of the Bylaws provides for amendment of the Bylaws by vote of two-thirds of the members of Vestry at a meeting called for that purpose. The change shall be submitted to the Bishop and Standing Committee. If they*

approve the change without substantial revision, then the change as so approved shall be become immediately effective upon receipt by the Parish.

New Business: none

Next meeting: October 19, 2022

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Motion to adjourn: K Finkbeiner; D Wilder, second
Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by:
Laura Kszan, Clerk Pro Tem.