

16 May 2024 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Jay MacLeod, Jerry Coogan, Jennifer Giles, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Russ Potter, Russ Register, Nancy Rollins, Susan Feyrer

Absent: Kathy Mathias, Fifi Mitchell, Mike Quinn, Nonie Reynders

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

April Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Worship and Formation: The last Sunday offering process has evolved to often include a short presentation on the last Sunday of the month by a representative of the organization receiving the donation, and that person is also often available during coffee hour for informal discussion. We encourage the Outreach Committee to continue this practice as they feel it appropriate.

Jay announced that Beach cricket would occur on Sunday, 14 July at 2:00 PM (the only Sunday when the tide allows). Details will follow as the day nears.

The current lectionary is Year B, which incorporates the Epistle, giving a total of four readings. This is often too much, and Jay plans sometimes to include with the Gospel reading only the Old Testament reading from Track 2, which relates to the Gospel. For several Sundays in late summer, Jay plans an instructed Eucharist, which would replace the sermon.

Building and Grounds: There are now six projects on the to-do list:

Old Saint Andrew's:

1. Installation of exit lights
2. Masonry repair of the stone foundation

Gould Road:

1. Walkways to the patio and memorial garden, Harvey received an informal estimate for asphalt walkways of \$4500 (see Patio Accessibility item later in the Building and Grounds section).
2. Water damage in the Cave room: Bob Feuerstein has the lead
3. Church bells: no progress

4. Basement smell: smoke testing suggested a sewer leak between the downstairs bathrooms. A plumber looked into this and found poor sealing around the urinal in the men's room. This was fixed and, it is hoped, solved the issue.

Patio accessibility (walkways to the Memorial Garden and the patio from the parking area): Nancy Rollins has arranged for a state accessibility inspector to visit and consult with us about the possible options in early June. Currently we are considering three options – each has both pros and cons: A) asphalt paving (Pro: low maintenance, always there, good surface. Con: more asphalt on grass area), B) crushed stone (Pro: inexpensive, pleasing look. Con: high maintenance, may not be accessible for wheelchairs and walkers). C) Mobi-Path walkway (a roll-up walkway surface that can be removed and installed as desired. Pro: low maintenance, pleasing appearance, good surface. Con: would not be installed permanently – possibly limiting access to the Memorial Garden at times). Susan noted that wheelchairs are available for rough terrain and that we might have one available at the church. Claire suggested discussion of all these options with the donor we have for the project. In addition to work on the walkways, the paving stones in the Memorial Garden should be reset to make them level.

Spring cleaning update: Cave room: Lisa Kelly is the contact for things stored there. She is reviewing what is there to determine what to keep and what not to keep. The deadline for removal will depend on when work can begin on the cave room, which is not yet determined. Administrative room: Anne Hall is the contact and will review with those involved in alter guild. Jay noted that if, as we hope, youth groups result from the youth choir, we will need space devoted to such groups – possibly a room for a middle school group next year.

Finance: There are three items in finance:

Drivers' education scholarship proposal: Social workers at the Kearsarge Regional School System note that there is a need for financial support to allow some students to take a drivers' education class. Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners (KNP) have come to us asking if we could contribute toward that. The cost per pupil is ~\$700. They expect that three students would be in the program this year and possibly double that number next year. Jay suggested that we contribute a total of \$2000 from the core outreach fund for these two years. KNP would fund the rest.

Treasure's report: Mike has sent a treasurer's report by email. In his absence, we deferred discussion.

Priority for next year – music program: We hope to expand the music program in the coming years, and discussion is in progress with Will and Nicole. Nicole is thinking of expanding the Youth Choir to include 6th graders from the current upper age of 5th graders. Jay has encouraged Will to consider how we might develop a pathway to include 7th graders and older to continue into the adult choir. Will is now very busy at a seventeen-hour work week at St. Andrew's. We should consider increasing his hours to nineteen and budget for that. This discussion sparked several other staff ideas that will be included later in these minutes in the Other Business section.

Voorhees Update: Jay reported that the housing arrangements for Georgea are essentially complete. Housing for her last two weeks are not finalized but will not be a problem. Her work with the Outing Club, which will give her valuable time with people her own age, may be delayed a few days due to state bureaucracy requirements. We have asked the Outing Club to integrate as much as possible the public health aspects of their activities into Georgea's work with them since this aligns with her plans to pursue a career in nursing. Although the Outing Club offered to contribute funds for Georgea's support in appreciation of her work with them, we decided to provide all support ourselves and consider her work with them our gift to The Outing Club and the New London Community. It is not clear that support other than from St. Andrew's would be in accord with her status in the US.

Other Business: A number of suggestions were made on St. Andrew's activities and organization:

1. Susan suggested that we budget a grounds keeper to reduce the burden on Mary Eysenbach. This has already happened and will be ready when Mary needs and requests it. Also it was noted that the students receiving scholarships from the drivers' education program with KNP (see finance section) would be required to contribute some of their time to community service, and this service could involve grounds work at St. Andrew's.
2. Susan suggested that we might create a staff position specifically for Christian formation to take some of the burden from Jay. Jay said that it might be worth considering a ¼ to ½ time position, that it would be good experience for a newly ordained person, and that there might be some financial support available for this from the Diocese.
3. Jerry suggested that we add a standard agenda item early in Vestry meetings that would encourage communication between Vestry and the parish. This

would be a time for sharing of thoughts, observations, and/or anecdotes of interaction with parish members. Building on this idea, Billy suggested that we create a place online where we could quickly document such interactions while they are fresh in our minds. We could then discuss those at the next Vestry meeting.

4. Jay concluded the Other Business section by noting that “the mission of the church is at the center, not the rector – not the institutional well-being but what we are doing in the world”.

We closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes taken by Russ Potter

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mathias, Clerk