

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew – New London, NH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 June 2020

Present (via ZOOM): Jay MacLeod, Aaron Jenkyn, Bruce Avery, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Guest: Harvey Best

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

**May minutes** were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Finance:** Mike referred to emailed financial reports, noting that the year continues well against budget as well as against prior year. Thanks in part to the SBA's Payroll Protection Program as well as pledge revenue and lower expenses our available cash is satisfactory. For those who may not have had time to review the reports before the meeting, Mike welcomes emailed questions.

**Buildings and Grounds:** In response to last year's energy audit (and the age of our current heating system) the Green Committee had recommended replacing our current oil-fired boiler. Harvey with committee members Ed Hoyt and Woody Canaday researched, deliberated and consulted with vendors for the installation of condensing propane boilers. It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to accept the proposal from Huckleberry Oil & Propane of Boscawen, not to exceed \$35,000.** Harvey explained that the cost includes two boilers, their installation and hardware, plus circulator pumps, tank excavation and plumbing. It is our hope that the excavated oil tank will also be removed by Huckleberry. The in-ground propane tank will belong to Huckleberry who has also locked in the per gallon price for propane for the 2020-21 heating season with this proposal.

In response to a question from Chris Heyl regarding roof run-off in the same area as the excavation, Harvey will inquire whether Huckleberry can address the needed drainage when there with their excavator.

Jay offered thanks to Harvey, Woody, Ed and the entire Green Committee as well as to Greg whose bid to the diocese for funding resulted in a significant grant. Jay noted also the importance of this for both St. Andrew's and for the environment with the hope that parishioners may make similar changes in their homes for a greener world.

**Re-opening:** Noting that matters of worship are the purview of the rector, Jay said it is his view that the vestry and he might come together with a common mind as to how to move forward. Jay introduced the idea of offering in-person outdoor worship with live-streaming every other week, and continuing pre-recorded services on alternate weeks. He indicated that social distancing would be enforced and that he would not continue in-person worship in good conscience if people are not safe.

Aaron noted that the emailed survey showed demand for pre-recorded services to continue but at the same time many responses indicated the wish to be together and to worship together. Looking at the localized context, the number of infections and risk, outdoors can be seen as a safe option as long as we are clear about wearing face masks and respecting distance.

Jay envisions cordoning off an area with a gate for those who have pre-registered where they would confirm their contact details and be reminded of the need for physical distance. Photo records from the perimeter would be taken in case illness requires contact tracing. A quality outdoor sound system and ideally a loop for those wearing hearing aids will be obtained. Training will be provided for stewards and greeters and people will be encouraged to make their own decisions about age- and health-related issues. Should severe bad weather prevent an outdoor service, a handful of participants (e.g. readers, prayers) would be live-streamed inside the church but a light drizzle, or bright sun, where umbrellas could offer protection would not cancel outdoor worship.

**Consensus was reached that we will begin offering outdoor worship on alternate Sundays at both 8 and 10 AM beginning on 19 July, with live videotaping.** A detailed parish letter will be prepared to outline expectations with a note that any sudden spike in cases of the virus would cancel the plans. After the first service, we will be in a position to determine if adjustments need to be made before the next one two weeks hence. Our quality online worship will continue to be offered on alternate weeks.

Jay noted that we had decided to close Old St. Andrew's for the summer, and also that St. James Sunapee is closed, but clergy may be in residence there, noting the possibility of involving them in our worship.

**Stewardship:** Bruce asked for suggestions of individuals to co-chair the stewardship campaign: one with covid-related age or health restrictions and one without, to work together.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting (probably on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 23 July.**