

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

20 April 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Lin Potter, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nancy Rollins, Alice Perry.

Absent: Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Nonie Reynders, Karen Zurheide.

Guest: George Jamieson

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Legacy Fund:** George Jamieson assured the vestry that its investment policies and gift acceptance policies are being properly monitored by him and his committee. He has also looked into the Diocese's policies and finds them in sync with St. Andrew's, with socially responsible investing. The Diocesan investment committee meets quarterly, overseeing \$7.34 million of which \$1.89 million (11%) is St. Andrew's funds. He with committee member John Moses intend to sit in on a Diocesan meeting from time to time.

George noted that our decision to establish the Legacy Giving Committee was a wise one and next steps include another session between services (perhaps once a year), with postcards ready to soon to go out to keep the opportunity visible. He also suggests asking people individually about their intentions regarding bequests to St. Andrew's, and expects the vestry to lead by example.

**Finance:** Mike distributed 31 March financials with a written report prior to the meeting by email. Reporting remains a work in progress with a new accounting system. Unlike other years, reporting now includes Outreach revenue and expenses so overall revenue and expenses cannot be compared to prior years. In the current report he found some expenditure categories higher than budget and will meet with Shelly to determine specifics. Nonetheless, he reported that surplus exists where a deficit had been expected.

**Elders among us:** Following a meeting of the elder-care committee on Tuesday, Claire submitted by email a summary report of the recent parish survey. We thank her for taking time from her vacation to do that work. Jay offered some comments as follow-up to her emailed report noting that respondents reported that isolation is not much of an issue among our congregation. By and large the elderly are doing well and prefer the church focus on the spiritual rather than itself offering workshops on other issues—while perhaps inviting outside experts to use our space for such purposes. We plan to identify the very small number of housebound individuals to ensure their needs are met. A link to the full report will be shared with the vestry shortly.

**Buildings and Grounds Update:** Russ Register introduced several topics. **Reshingling** the entire church roof was completed last week by Lavorgna's at a cost of \$63,784 including an additional \$6284 to address issues uncovered as the work was done.

Revision Energy has all the materials for the **solar panels** as well as an approved New London permit. They are still in need of a NH state fire marshal's permit and expect to install the panels sometime between 22 May and 14 August.

Old Yankee Stoneworks reports some issues acquiring all the materials for **patio reconstruction** so dates for that work are not currently available.

As reported by email earlier this month, removal of bats from Old St. Andrew's will be completed at a cost of \$1800.

At Fifi's request, Alice asked if the now silent **toller (bell)** would be repaired. Jay noted that the company that initially installed the toller, operated by a simple press of a button, now offers only a computerized (expensive) "bells and whistles" version and would not repair or replace the existing system. Because it is important to the congregation and neighbors to hear the nine tolls of the bell announcing morning and midday services, we noted two options. One is to see if there is an electrician who could investigate and repair the existing system; the other is to inquire of the company if there are other churches (nationwide) still using the simple system so we could contact them to learn how they are able to maintain it.

**Looking ahead:** Alice reported that **Old St. Andrew's** will open for 8 AM worship on Father's Day (18 June) with services continuing through Labor Day weekend (3 September). The vestry agreed to offer an evening Taizé service soon after that date to indicate closing for the season, as we did last year.

We decided to hold **weekly summer picnics** on a Tuesday beginning at 5:30 PM throughout the summer, from 20 June through 29 August. Given uncertainty about the patio reconstruction, the location of picnics may move from one outdoor location to another as needed.

Also with the patio reconstruction in mind, any decision about when and if to hold **outdoor services for 10 AM worship** has been put on hold.

As a reminder, **Fair dates** have been set: Summer Fair on 1 July and St. Nicholas Fair on 2 December. Hosting groups from **Phillips Brooks** will take place 19-20 July and 2-3 August. Due to construction projects at the site (for the next two years), **Camp Coniston** is not available for a worship service and parish picnic in the fall as had been our custom.

**Mission/Outreach:** Jay noted how thrilled he is to have hired Zach Gobeil as **Missioner** with thanks to Karen and Billy for their part in the hiring process. Zach this week has been participating in online **Messy Church** training and with our team has begun planning both the May and June events. Jay added that **Dodge, Drum and Sing** will be offered again this year but not on consecutive Fridays. The first session of five will be 28 April and Zach will participate when his schedule permits.

With some people who are driving already en route, others depart 25 April for **St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, Utah**. Jay expects it will be, as in the fall, both productive and spiritually enriching. Due to difficult internet connection in Bluff, Jay will share photos via Instagram and Facebook rather than parish emails.

Jay noted that because the **Voorhees interns**, who will be here from mid-June to mid-August, are overseas students (from Jamaica and Bahamas) there are some forms to be filled out for the university and for U.S. Immigration to link the internships to their courses of study. He spoke of other details to be worked out including our share of transportation from their homes (not from Voorhees), scholarship/stipend issues, as well as housing and transportation here in New London, for which he has some promising leads.

**Any Other Business:** Jay noted there are vacancies to fill on the Outreach Commission and to KREM.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and together we offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting will be 18 May 2023.**