

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 July 2022

Present on Zoom: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Russ Register, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Nonie Reynders.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

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

**Vestry Retreat:** Karen spoke about the vestry retreat in June and referred to the outline of next steps sent out by email with the agenda for this meeting. She outlined the six priorities identified all under the umbrella of continuing our quality of worship. Of those, three are programmatic – Christian formation, Engaging children and younger families, Pastoral care of older people – and the other three – Improving volunteer participation within the parish, Strengthening relationships among parishioners, Maturing as a missional church – can be interwoven into the first three. We were invited to choose a working group on which to sit with the rector and one warden having a place on each. Groups are expected to begin promptly with goals identified by Labor Day and more detailed plans by early November. Additional input from the wider parish will be welcome; we expect to announce members of the groups and their remit in a parish email 29 July.

*While waiting to hear from absent members Lin, Mike and Nonie (and perhaps Morris if his health permits), we so far have groups as follows:*

Christian formation: Chuck, Joe

Children and families: Billy, Karen

Pastoral care: Russ, Claire, Karen

Alice is interested in serving on either Christian formation or Pastoral care, pending choices by absent members.

**Finance:** Unable to attend the meeting, Mike sent out his report in four files by email in advance of the meeting: Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, Income Expense Comparison and Ledger to Budget, each for the period ending 30 June 2022.

It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to table discussion of the Finance Committee's recommendation to apply for funding from the Diocesan Advance Fund for work done at Old St. Andrew's.** As Mike noted in his written report, "I have not yet connected with Bengé Ambrogi to determine the particulars. Ideally, by the next Vestry meeting, I will have

had a chance to do this and make an informed recommendation as to whether/how to approach this opportunity.”

**Buildings and Grounds:** In a recent letter to Jay, Chris spoke of personal developments (not health-related) that have led him to resign his position on the vestry and as chair of Buildings and Grounds effective 1 September. Chris suggested we might consider a paid position for a “sexton” – one who could oversee needs and projects as they arise, either fixing them himself or finding contractors to do so. Chris spoke of at least 10 items that are in need of attention including additional work at Old St. Andrew’s; and at Gould Road windows and doors, patio steps, tree removal and Green Committee agenda, among others. He will prepare a detailed list with suggestions before his departure. Thanks were extended for all the work Chris has done. As we consider how to move forward, we may need a greater mix of paid and volunteer efforts.

**Planning Ahead:** Jay presented the following topics and information:

- With an eye to increased use of Old St. Andrew’s, Jay proposes a Taizé service in the evening of 7 August and a service of Compline in the evening of the last Sunday of summer worship there, 5 September. Jay will look for two vestry members to work with him in preparing those planned services, and encouraged vestry members to attend. He noted also that offering heartfelt worship to God regardless of numbers in attendance is worthwhile.  
Chuck inquired if vespers might be offered and also wondered if the wider community might want to use the building for meetings.
- With only one response to the possibility of preparing a float (on short notice) for this year’s Hospital Day parade, we will instead look toward next year to participate.
- This year’s Harvest Fair will be 17 September. (Harvey and Rosie Best have confirmed by email that this date will work for them.)
- Many parishioners are in need of Eucharistic visitors and Jay will get this program back up and running.
- As noted previously and in today’s parish email, Bishop Rob will be visiting St. Andrew’s on 30 November at 7 PM.
- Newcomers’ gathering is slated for 28 July at 5 PM with an invitation to stay for the weekly cook-out that follows at 5:30. Claire and Jay are working on details for the gathering.

**Any other business:** Billy reported that a parishioner had spoken to him about the need to replace the very old sign along the road near King Hill Road. By coincidence an email from the Diocese recently provided information about worn street sign replacement which we can use to make the replacement: specs & options, pricing and samples can all be found at <https://signs.forwardmovement.org/>

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 August.**