

# St. John in the Wilderness

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday February 15, 2024

Present: Peter Langille, Deb Walker, Brian Bradford, Ingrid Schmid, Brent Anderson, Susan Halliday, Sandra Fraser, Leslie Grieve, Brenden Fraser, Amanda Longmoore

Regrets: Mike Moloney, Brian Fogg

Scribe: Brenden Fraser and Deb Walker

**Opening** – Amanda opened with a prayer.

**Minutes, previous meeting** (corrections, approval)

**MOTION to accept by Brian B. seconded by Susan Halliday. PASSED**

**Business arising from the minutes** - none

## **Rector's Report**

We had 19 people at the Ash Wed. service. Pancake supper went very well! Amanda reports that her mental health is improving, she thanks the congregation for all of the support and encouragement through this time.

Amanda made it clear; her anxiety is not related to the parish or workload. This has been a long-time challenge for her, and she is working through this round of it with professional help.

The decision was made recently to not continue recording our 10:30 service, but we discovered there are some regular parishioners who are unable to attend in-person and stay connected to Sunday worship in this way, we will go back to recording and sharing by email.

## **Warden's Report**

Not much to report since Vestry – see Brian B's Property Committee report as this is their focus.

Peter and Deb are going to learn how to code and contribute to the webpage, to add additional content related to parish business (council minutes etc). If anyone else wants to learn to manage a web page such that one of their church groups can be on the web, please contact them.

## **Property Committee – Brian B.**

The new shed is installed, and everyone is pleased. A memorial message will be placed on it. Brent is in the process of creating a ramp to assist in loading and unloading wheelbarrows and lawnmowers into the shed.

This spring we are going to do continued work on the sump pump trench and some other lawn maintenance work that needs doing. Vent cleaning will also continue, underneath the church.

We have ordered chairs from Manley's for Amanda's office; upright for ease of use and easy to wipe clean.

There is a soft spot in the floor of the storage room and Brent is going to go underneath and investigate the cause and decide remediation.

There is a switch in the sacristy to turn the outdoor speakers on and off. It is important to turn the speaker off when not in use, or anyone could use the Bluetooth capabilities to broadcast sound.

The south windows facing Old Lakeshore Road are going to be replaced in May (via memorial funds).

The parking lot is going to be graded to assist in drainage and avoid mud puddles. Aim is to have a 1% grade from the west and east telephone poles which meet and drain to the catch basin just east of the church's porch.

The red carpet in the church is going to be deep cleaned with a carpet cleaning machine in the spring.

Amanda has some old documents that were found cleaning out the safe and will transport them to the proper places for archival; there is a process to work through to deposit some in London at the diocesan archives and some in the county archive in Wyoming.

There is ongoing work to get the church's sound system updated as well as a projector which can be used for church business and social events such as movie nights.

The dehumidifier in the church is plumbed in, so it does not need to be manually emptied. There are plans to continue this with the other dehumidifiers on the property.

We are going to be upgrading the electricity in the kitchen, to avoid breakers going during peak use times; the upgrade of the church to 200-amp service in 2021 to address air conditioning needs has enabled this kitchen electrical upgrade.

The cabinets on the north wall of the kitchen have been lowered to a more workable height. Pancake supper chefs were quite please with the improvement.

There are plans to clean the exterior north wall siding of algae and growth in the early spring.

Note, most of the above was/will be done via volunteers and memorial funds directed by donors. The kitchen electrical upgrade and the sound system/projector upgrade were in the budget voted on at Vestry and volunteers are involved and working with contractors to keep costs down while delivering functionality (doing the work we can do, while they do their work).

## ACW Report

Leslie reports that the mailed “Blah” packages will go out tomorrow, and the local ones will be delivered next week.

The ACW pancake supper was a big success; the hall was full and there were lots of guests from the community and we netted over \$500. We even tried the new Bluetooth speaker outside the church porch – provided a little music over it as people approached.

The ACW continues to have monthly meetings and has lots of fun holding them.

## Treasurer's Report

Givings were down in January, as they typically are, we need to focus on givings in February.

No other updates on the financials since Vestry.

## New Business

We are going implement getting the **Parish Council minutes** posted to the website, and also emailing them out to the parish list.

In 2014, an **energy analysis and energy savings measures study** for the church was done by Tom Pedlar. Peter noted that many improvements recommended were made since then. The Property Committee examined it and decided it was not time to do another one, but review of it helped their current work/focus. Thanks to Ruth Pedlar for bringing it to our wardens’ attention. The report is posted on the bulletin board if anyone is interested in reading it, and is available digitally upon request.

Deb reports that the **beehives** on the church’s property did not survive the winter and they have been removed for the time being. New hives will be brought in to replace the old ones. It was noted that the bees of the old hives were a little bit “mean”, so it’s not all bad; one aim will be to get a couple of friendly queens for the two new hives.

During Pancake supper a conversation came up that the **kitchen counter** just had no place for **dirty dishes**. Deb investigated with several people; it turns out the design of the kitchen is that the stainless-steel trolley is the target destination for dirty dishes. A rather good design given limited space, just move the stainless-steel trolley to wherever dirty dishes are wanted. Sometimes this is by the east wall by the sinks; sometimes it is by the kitchen door to the hall, so that at busy times dirty dishes stay out of the clean dish areas of the kitchen (as they did during our pancake supper this year – good!). 4 sinks are needed to comply with food safety regulations (when our dishwasher is not used).

## Correspondence

none

### **Other Business**

Sandra Fraser reports that she will be organizing another plant sale this spring. She is looking for volunteers to help. Remember to get your plants you plan to donate into containers they can be sold in during the early part of your planting process. Deb loves the plant sale – come join in!

**MOTION to adjourn by Ingrid Schmid**

### **Closing**

The meeting was closed with the grace.