

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
September 19, 2021
Held In-Person

In Attendance: Hunter Brown, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack, Bob Futh, David Gillespie, Fr. Geoff Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Larry Littlefield, Susan McFeely, MB Witt

Guest: The Rev. Lisa DiNunno Hahneman, St. John's, New Milford

Absent: Joan Beattie, Joseph Claro (excused)

Opening Prayer: Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Entrepreneurial Grant: The Vestry allowed the Rev. Lisa DiNunno Hahneman to begin the meeting with a request to add St. John's Washington to St. John's, New Milford Region Entrepreneurial Fund Grant application. The Vestry voted to approve adding our church to the application.

Considered an impact grant, the financial resources were raised in ECCT's 2019-2020 Joining Jesus initiative.

Two or more Episcopal parishes in good standing and/or a recognized ECCT Ministry Network active within one or more Regions are eligible to receive a grant. Partnerships with non-Episcopal entities are welcome and encouraged. One Episcopal parish must serve as the project leader custodial funds manager, and reporting agent (in this case St. John's, New Milford).

The grant will be used to support the New Milford Culinary School which provides job training and certification for employment in the food industry. The school has been a partner in the food ministry network efforts in New Milford and with St. John's, Washington.

St. John's, New Milford will use the grant to create a permanent space for the school by repurposing space in the parish house to create a commercial kitchen, computer lab and classroom space.

Voting on Minutes from August 8th Vestry Meeting: Minutes were approved. Ms. Daly posted them outside the parish office, and they are also posted on the St. John's website.

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Littlefield reported that pledges are currently at 77% of expectation.

Income and Expense Report: As of August, St. John's YTD expenses continue to be under budget (\$152,798.66 vs. \$172,284.00). For the month of August, the biggest expense was for Buildings and Grounds (\$3,492.88 vs. budget of \$2,083.00) primarily due to getting the Rectory ready for the new tenant.

PPP Update: The bank approved our SBA, and it will take up to one year to convert this to a grant.

Foundation Construction Update Report: Ms. Davis reported that the Church's front doors will be painted during the week of 9/21. Ms. Davis is waiting for the estimates to install the awning over the East doors. Plan is to have the awning installed by this winter. Ms. Davis also reported that the Foundation is in excellent financial shape. The Foundation's next project, to begin this spring, is the repointing of the church building's mortar.

Property Report Ms. McFeely will have Terminix come to evaluate/make a recommendation regarding the rodent problem in the Church and Parish House.

Now that our new OCM, Tom Brand, has use of the cottage, Fr. Hahneman will talk with him regarding the cleaning/upkeep of the cottage and if a cleaning service will be needed, although this is not anticipated. A new gas stove was installed in the Parish House and will be hooked up and ready for use well before the Holiday Fete. The lock on the patio doors were repaired.

Ms. McFeely will be in talks with the Washington Volunteer Fire Department about installing Knox boxes which are small, wall-mounted safes that hold building keys for fire departments, emergency medical services, and sometimes police to retrieve in emergency situations.

Warden's Report: Mr. Gillespie, along with the Vestry, would like to thank Tom Brand for accepting the position of OCM and look forward to his contributions.

Priest-In-Charge Report:

Transition Plan: Due to the pandemic, an update on the Transition Plan will be scheduled when this all-parish event can be convened in safety.

Refugee Resettlement: There will be an event on 10/23 at the Judy Black Memorial Park when information will be provided about the details of refugee resettlement in our community. More info on this topic is contained in our Friday eblasts.

Staffing Update: In lieu of a Sexton, Fr. Hahneman and Ms. McFeely will meet with Deb Forese to determine how her staff can help maintain our buildings and grounds.

Other Business:

Holiday Fete: Ms. Witt reported that the Fete Committee assessed the future status of the pandemic and decided the Fete will move forward with the original dates of December 3rd and 4th. If the current health concerns worsen, the event will be postponed until spring.

Altar Guild: To save costs and increase convenience, Ms. Witt proposed that we "try on" oil candles by the lectern. Fr. Hahneman will also investigate the use of electric candles as he has had a positive experience with them.

Building of Youth Choir: Fr. Hahneman reported that Mr., Tom Brand is planning several programs to attract youth to St. John's. It was suggested that Mr. Brand collaborate with Mr. Tom Dulack in mounting musicals with the participation of local youths, something Mr. Dulack has had great experience with.

Closing Prayers: Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by: Laura Daly