

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**June 16, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Fr. Hahneman, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Coles, Mr. Kalnins, Ms. Bent, Mr. del Nin, Ms. Daly, Ms. McFeely, Ms. Witt, Mr. Ormand

**Absent/Excused:** Ms. Davis, Ms. Dulack, Mr. Gillespie,

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Vestry meeting were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for the month of May 2024 was approved.

**Property Report**

Mr. Bracken reported that the Gunn School has signed a lease for the rectory at a rate of \$4,000 per month, plus utilities. The Gunn School will use the rectory to house its Head of Admissions and her family. Fr. Hahneman requested a signed copy of the lease.

The Parish may need to pay property taxes on the rectory for 2024 in an amount not yet known, but after that the Town will restore the Parish's property tax exemption.

There is a pothole in the parking lot in need of filling. The Parish Administrator will coordinate that work.

**Foundation Report**

Mr. Bracken reported on the further progress that has been made in establishing the scope of a restoration project for the masonry on the church and related capital repairs. A \$76,000 quote has been received from a mason for the engineering work associated with the restoration. Mr. Bracken expects that a three-month period for candidates to submit bids for the project will begin in August 2024. After the bidding process is complete, the Parish will apply for outside grants to help cover some of the costs of the work.

Mr. Bracken further reported on potential sources of funding for the project, including an anticipated parishioner gift. There was then discussion of potential additional fundraising opportunities and events that might be held to raise money for the renovation. It was suggested that a committee be formed to explore these opportunities.

Mr. Bracken also reported on the effort to revitalize the St. John's Concert Series on a self-funded basis. This venture will be pursued under the Foundation's umbrella. Mr. Bracken has had

preliminary discussions with local artists about the potential for a poetry series, as well as a music and dance series. Mr. Bracken, Ms. Daly, and Mr. Ormand will take this project forward.

### **Report on the Fête**

Ms. Witt reported that the annual Christmas Fête will be held during the first weekend of December 2024. This year, there will be no vendors. The Parish has received a donation from the estate of Stephen Sondheim consisting of certain of his personal effects. These will be auctioned at the Fête.

Ms. Witt is also planning an outreach activity to involve local youth during the Fête weekend. Ms. Karen Saxe of the Rumsey Hall School and Mr. Bracken have agreed to assist with this effort.

This is Ms. McFeely's tenth year, and Ms. Witt's ninth year, co-chairing the Fête.

### **Warden's Report**

Mr. Bracken reported that a homecoming picnic has been scheduled for September 29, 2024, following the 10:00a.m. mass. The picnic will likely be held at Waldingfield Farm, with the River Walk Pavilion as a backup. Mr. Bracken will coordinate the planning for the event.

### **Priest's Report**

Fr. Hahneman reminded the Vestry that a Summer Choir is expected to convene beginning June 30, 2024 at the 10:00a.m. mass. He noted will be away during the remainder of June attending the General Convention, which will, among other things, elect a new Presiding Bishop.

Fr. Hahneman also informed the Vestry that Tom Brand will be holding a concert in honor of Parishioner Hunter Brown at Brandywine Senior Living in Litchfield. Mr. Brand is also planning a concert to honor Parishioner Joan Beattie.

### **Conclusion**

There was no further discussion.

Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Justin Ormand, Clerk.