



Saint John's Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

Date: August 24, 2025

Attendees: Worth Bracken, Robert Reynolds, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack, Geoff Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Karen Saxe, MB Witt, Susan McFeeley, David Gillespie, Michael Del Nin, Rebecca Bent

Absent: Rebecca Bent

1. Opening Prayer

Father Geoff opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Vestry approved the minutes for both May and June.

3. Treasurer's Report

After discussion, the vestry unanimously approved withdrawing \$100,000 from the endowment funds to be used for capital improvements to the church building.

After discussion, the vestry unanimously approved a loan up to \$100,000 to the St. John's Foundation to be used in connection with capital improvements to the church building.

After discussion, the vestry unanimously approved withdrawing an additional \$100,000 from the endowment funds to be used for capital improvements to the church building.

4. Property Report (Susan McFeeley)

- Susan McFeeley reported on painting the cottage and repairing the window sills in September.
- BAS is pulling back the shrubbery so that we can complete the painting.
- Fete: requires help from a lot of people, so we will need to reach out to everyone.

5. Tag Sale Report

- M.B. Witt reported on the tag sale. There was a discussion about a possible tag sale in 2026.



- If we hold the tag sale next year, it will be on July 18th, after the Green Fair.

6. Restoration Report

- Worth Bracken reported on the status of the restoration project for the church building.
- All proceeding- tower repairs underway.
- There were two-site meetings, and all is going smoothly, and good progress is being made.
- WJE - Fall work: made a detailed assessment of the projects we need to complete.
- All members of the vestry will participate in the campaign for the tower restoration project. It will be in addition to the annual pledge.

- The goal is to raise an estimated million dollars for the restoration and additional projects.
- We are ready to begin the quiet phase of our fundraising efforts.
- The Vestry approved future disbursement of \$100,000 from the endowment to the Restoration project as a gift from the bequest of Hedda Windisch von Goeben.
- This designated and named gift is important as a cornerstone of the nucleus fund for the restoration campaign.

7. Parish Family Picnic plans (Worth)

- Picnic Planning Meeting on 9/14
- We need a new leader for the picnic.
- We need a sign-up list of volunteers
- Worth updates the invite card, and it is online.
- Direct calls should be made to get more participation
- Joan B. and Susan to reach out to the community
- Worth sending a list of jobs and what we need.
- Volunteers so far:
 - Michael Del Nin: Wine, spirits, and bartending
 - MB, Corrine, Veronique, and Sara purchase the food: tablecloths, cups, napkins, and condiments.
 - Susan maillist



- Laura will bring sides (salads), plates, and utensils.
- Contact Donna Wright (through Shepaug Art) about a facepainter
- Miguel is to be hired to transport the tables and chairs, food, and set up at Wallingfield, as well as to clean up after the picnic.

Warden's Report

- Laura is building a list of lay preachers to preach at other churches.

8. Concerns

- The purchase of the Advent wreath stand, which is approximately \$1204.00, plus tax and shipping, was approved by the vestry. The entire amount is roughly \$7,830 for vestments and purple paraments, which have also been approved.
- MB will send out a wishlist for the Altar items that need to be purchased as donations.

Closing Prayer

Father Geoff concluded the meeting with a prayer.