

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 18, 2018
4:35 p.m. EST

Present at the meeting: Jane Cornman, Marsha Planting, Janet Stratton
Attending by phone: Stefan Cushman, Ailsa Foulke, Leanna Greene, Mimi Houghton, Liz McMullan

Opening Prayers

Approval of November Minutes

- Mimi Houghton makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Janet Stratton seconds. No further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

Reports

- Buildings and Grounds
 - The landscape project at St. Mary's Parish Hall is complete - as far as what they can do before winter. It will be finalized in the spring when they are able to plant the flowers and smaller stuff.
 - Emera claim is completed and submitted. They should respond by the end of January. If we don't, we will pursue it with our insurance company, and they will work with Emera to get it taken care of.
 - A few trees needed to be removed at St. Jude's due to wind storms (see the first bulleted Action Item).
- Finance Report
 - Lauri submitted it by email. No questions or discussion came up for Lauri about the report.
- Rector's Report
 - Jane has withdrawn St. Mary & St. Jude from the Puerto Rico trip. Grace Church, Bath, will still pursue it, if there are still people interested in going.
 - From the last meeting, the 3 top priority people to be asked to fill Vestry seats were: Mike Rogers, Axie Diana, Berno Hamilton.
 - Jane spoke with Axie a few times. Jane feels she would be an excellent candidate for Senior Warden.
 - Mike Rogers sounded interested, but was still hesitant. Jane would like another Vestry member to reach out to Mike about this too.
 - LaFarge windows restoration is just about completed. Jane visited the studio where they are being refurbished and they look amazing. She spoke to Roberto about potential buyers, and he said if we sold them at auction, buyers would probably be in Japan. We'd like to see them stay local though.
 - Jane spoke to Ben Wooten who manages our endowments. He said that taking a percentage of a three-year rolling average is an appropriately conservative approach during normal times. However, because of our recent large increase in valuation, it is not necessary to be that conservative this year. We could easily take a percentage of the current value. This will need to be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.
 - Jane would still like to set up a meeting with the Vestry and the Centennial Trustees to talk about our budgetary challenges and how the Trustees might be able to help.

- Jane thinks that our next financial strategy should be a planned giving campaign.

Action Items

- Need a motion to pay \$750 for tree removal at St. Jude's from the Foulke Fund. A tree at St. Jude's (NOT one of the dead ones already planned for removal) was blown down in a recent storm. We needed to have it removed from our neighbor's yard promptly, and propose paying for it (at least temporarily) with money from the Foulke Fund. Pat needs documentation of a Vestry motion to be able to do this. *If the Centennial Trustees approve our tree removal grant request, we will replenish the Foulke Fund the \$750.*
 - Liz makes a motion to take up to \$750 from the Foulke Fund to pay for the unexpected, storm-related tree removal at St. Jude's. Seconded by Stefan.
 - Discussion: What (if any) are the restrictions for the Foulke Fund? Can it be used for anything relating to St. Jude's? Technically, the Vestry can use it for anything because it's not legally restricted. But, we have understood as a Vestry to use it only for the needs of St. Jude's.
 - All in favor to approve above motion. Motion passes.
- Need a motion made to ask the Centennial Trustees for:
 - Up to \$7,000 for tree work at St. Jude's and St. Mary's by-the-Sea. This includes \$5,400 for tree work at St. Jude's, \$450 for tree work at St. Mary's by-the-Sea, and \$750 to replenish the Foulke Fund for removal of a tree, already removed, that fell into our neighbor's yard at St. Jude's.
 - Up to \$34,000 for gutter repair/replacement and installation of snow guards at St. Mary's by-the-Sea. This includes \$9,500 to rework existing gutters and Mullane Retro Hook Snow Guards (\$24,365).
 - Janet makes a motion that the Vestry of St. Mary and St. Jude request the following from the Centennial Trustees:
 - Up to \$7,000 for tree work at St. Jude's and St. Mary's by-the-Sea. This includes \$5,400 for tree work at St. Jude's, \$540 for tree work at St. Mary's by-the-Sea, and \$750 to replenish the Foulke Fund for removal of a tree, already removed, that fell into our neighbor's yard at St. Jude's.
 - Up to \$34,000 for gutter repair/replacement and installation of snow guards at St. Mary's by-the-Sea. This includes \$9,500 to rework existing gutters and \$24,635 to install Mullane Retro Hook Snow Guards.
 - Seconded by Leanne Greene. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passes.
- Planning Annual Meeting
 - Assign Nominating Committee
 - Stefan Cushman, Janet Stratton, Leanna Greene, and Mimi Houghton
 - Assign responsibility for planning and executing the meal.
 - The Vestry organizes this meeting. We can ask ECW to help with this even. *Janet volunteers to organize this breakfast/brunch.*

Jane left the meeting at this point. (5:05 p.m.) and the Vestry went into Executive Session. That portion of the meeting Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Date to Note

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service with Lessons & Carols, 4pm

January 18-20: Bishop Candidate walkabouts (*each one is 1:30-4:30pm*)

-Friday, January 18, Senator Inn, Augusta

- Saturday, January 19, Husson University, Bangor

-Sunday, January 20, Westin Hotel, Portland

January 27: Annual Meeting

June 22: Consecration of new Bishop of Maine

Also note: The April Vestry meeting will be changed from April 18 to April 11 due to conflict with Maundy Thursday.

Attachments

- Prayers
- November meeting minutes
- November financial report