

First Parish Church Council Meeting
April 23, 2019

Attendees: Anne-Marie Merrill-CE, John Bartel-Member at Large, Margie Ives-Stewardship, Fred Merrill-Moderator, Anne Englehardt-Assistant Moderator, Dee Deranian-Facilities, Beth Hunter-Missions, Cathy Pottle-Member at Large, Cathy Zylinski-Personnel, Cynthia Gray-Clerk, Reni Harnden-Member at Large, Becky Fleury-Treasurer.

Absent: Ryan Lehoullier-Diaconate

Guests: Alan Pawl, Randy Brown, Paul Lindemann, Marge Palmer

Opening Prayer: Becky Fleury

Meeting Minutes: Review Of Minutes of March 19, 2019 Accepted with Revisions by Unanimous vote.

Covenant: Randy offered a draft covenant developed by the Task Force dated April 3, 2019 for comments. Suggestions and discussions ensued. It was suggested that the final document be brought to the entire congregation at a special meeting for further comments. Before that it was suggested that it go into a newsletter. Randy also suggested that after this was completed we should think about a five year strategic plan.

Action item: The task force will finish the draft and send out for further comments, acceptance and then plan the roll out.

Plastic utensil ban: Marge Palmer asked to speak on the plastic utensil ban. This would also include styrofoam trays and plastic cups.

Action item: Fred will ask Michelle Guerrin to look into alternatives and bring back suggestions at the next meeting.

Rehabilitation Project: Paul went over the 300th Nutfield Weekend and all deemed it a great success. Steeple work is on schedule and painting has been delayed due to weather. He showed some trivets which are for sale.

Fundraising brought in around \$3000. As for the financials, there is a status meeting tomorrow, waiting for some invoices to come in.

Action item: We will be kept abreast of the project and the financials.

By laws review: Each board and committee have been asked to review their by-laws and comments will be compiled and presented by By Laws committee in June.

Action item: Each Council member should access our by-laws and present suggestions at the May meeting.

Financial Statements: Becky went over the Balance Sheet and Budget Sheets YTD. Pledges and plate offerings remain a little behind. There was a suggestion that we should see if a Venmo account would be advantageous.

Action Item: Becky will look into Venmo account.

Pastors Report: Deborah was not present but submitted her report in hard copy.

Capital Campaign: We need approximately \$1.2 million dollars to complete all work.

Action item: Fred asks that we each come up with plans for how we are to raise this additional money. He expects that each Council member will be prepared to make suggestions at the May meeting.

Member in Discernment: Debbie Gline Allen is returning to college to get her Masters in Ministry of Christian Education. She needs a church to support her to be a Member of Discernment and has submitted paperwork to Council in hopes of our support. Deadline is May 5, 2019. Council and Diaconette will need to provide letters of support.

Becky made recommendation to do this and it was seconded by Margie. Unanimous vote.

Action item: To send a letter of support as directed.

Round Table:

Beth reported that Missions is very pleased with the monies that have come in recently. Melanie has resigned so they are looking for another member.

Reni, Cathy P and Dee all commented that they feel Deborah has done an amazing job with all the activities that have gone on in our church this month.

Dee added that the interfaith service was wonderful. He would like to see the tables and chairs returned under the stage again. The peace pole is not quite finished, there is a rotted 4 x 4.

Anne commented that the Ministry of Care is doing very well. By-Laws have met twice and will meet again. There will be another Dining for Dollars, this time at Panera in May.

Cathy Z representing Personnel reports that they are rewriting job descriptions for the choir director and accompanist. Chris Ferrin has resigned due to transportation issues. Suggestion that we recognize him on his last day May 5. We will need an interim accompanist . Personnel is also looking at by-laws. Pastor Deborah work units are increased of late. Personnel is finishing their Handbook.

Becky-none

Anne-Marie Merrill none. No update on IT issues.

Action Item: Who is doing the IT issues?

John Bartel-kudos for all 300th Anniversary services. Rockingham Association meets May 5 and anyone is welcome.

Margie Ives-kudos to the volunteers for the Sonshine Soup Kitchen. She feels we need to recognize those members who worked so diligently for the 300th Anniversary. Please note the benches at the flag pole.

Closing prayer by Beth at 9:15

Next Meeting: May 15, 2019 7:00 pm