



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Post Office Box 441 / 307 Federal Street
Milton, Delaware 19968

www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org



Vestry Minutes for The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist January 20, 2020 – Zoom Meeting

Present: Jill Malloy, Sharon Lamando, Fr. Tom White, Scott Kresge, Clara Escobar, Jean Skocypec, Bel Gwiazdowski, Ed Stout.

Absent: Tom Sombar and Rob Konnyu.

Meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Jill Malloy at 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Father Tom.

Jill welcomed Bel officially to the vestry.

The vestry members are usually installed as a group during a Sunday worship in January, but since we are in a pandemic and meeting via zoom, Jill asked the members how they feel about waiting for the next meeting so that Rob would be present, and we can all be together and do it as a group. After further discussion the vestry decided to wait until the February meeting and if everyone is not present, we will do it anyway. If members are not present, they are still officially installed and members of the vestry according to the by-laws.

Acceptance of December Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Jean to accept the December meeting minutes and it was seconded by Sharon. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report –

Ed reported, he sent out the report to vestry members prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. He instructed that we have the option of having sub-accounts in QuickBooks in the checking account to keep restricted funds from being available. He has set two sub-accounts up for both the *Choir Fund* and the *Organ Fund*. Fr. Tom is happy we are doing that because it keeps with the Canons of the Church and lets the vestry know what funds are available and liquid when making decisions in the future.

Ed explained that Sarah Dill, when doing the 2019 end of year review, continues to question why we have consultants versus a paid employee. Ed will follow up again with her tomorrow for a better explanation.

Ed mailed out the end of the year tax letters today for tax year 2020. Jill asked if someone doesn't get one because of all of the problems with the mail, can it be reissued to them, and Ed said yes, he can do that.

Clara made a motion accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, Sharon seconded it, and all were in favor.

Priest Comments –

Fr. Tom reported that the Bishop has a zoom meeting with the clergy of the Diocese every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. The Bishop continues to suspend worship gatherings for the entire Diocese. The Bishop addressed Ash Wednesday. When the clergy got the update for COVID, it was reported that the top causes in the state continues to be #1 Restaurants and #2 is religious gatherings.

Brian Gustafson, the clock maker called Fr. Tom and asked about using our parking lot. His lot borders the Wharton Street parking lot. He would like to park two vehicles there and allow his customers to use his driveway. He is also committed to removing any cars when we are having Mass or an event. Fr. Tom explained to him that one of our concerns is to remove liability from non-members parking on the lot. He offered to write a letter absolving us of any legal obligations and he also offered to pay the property tax on that lot. He is thinking it would be \$200-\$300 a year. He is willing to pay the tax as rental for the two spaces. We will further discuss and vote on this under New Business.

Committee Reports

Property –

Sharon gave the property report. Jean noticed a leak under the kitchen sink. Clendaniels repaired it, and Ed received the bill for it for \$157.

She emailed the tenant, the yard was full of dog waste, and she is waiting for a response. Sharon was instructed by other members there is dog waste all around the shed and up against Sharon's house as well. She will follow up with Nicole to let her know that she needs to pick up every time the dog's go.

Sun Dew has finished, and she requested the final bill for the balance owed.

She called Mike Hunter and meeting with him in a week, about the shingle and the decorative siding on the rental unit.

She contacted Roland Simms about working on the Property Committee and he is willing to serve and help her out, she is also going to call Theo to see if he would be willing as well. This is the start of developing a 'Property Committee'.

Parish Administration

Administration –

Scott reported he is starting to prepare the totals for the parochial report. The attendance for the live streaming as well as the number of communing list.

He also reported that he will be going over the web site page by page to streamline it, update it and make sure the information is accurate.

Outreach

Clara reported that the committee will be doing a soup sale. Their funds have dropped in the account and they are looking for ways to increase it. Wayne was able to get Safeway to donate the containers for the sale, so there will be no out of pocket expense. The soup will be \$8 a quart, Jean checked, and Safeway sells their soup for \$9 a quart. There will be 5 different kinds for people to buy, and there has been a request for

volunteers to make soup for the sale. There will be flyers given out that explains where the monies are going, and the customers tend to get more generous with the funds.

Youth Ministry

Jill reported that Scott is filming, and the lessons are going out every week. They continue to shoot and prepare lessons ahead of time. Fr. Tom is getting some good feedback from the Sunday School participants about the lessons and crafts that are going out.

Music/Worship

Fr. Tom reported that he is moved by our worship team talent, starting with Jean & Doris on the altar guild and Jean with flowers. He is also continually impressed with the worship staff the day of Mass. Elizabeth with video and live streaming and learning to back up Scott. Scott with music, and the voicing of the organ, being Eucharistic Minister, and setting up the all the graphics for the streaming. Ed as Acolyte and Lay Reader. Rob as Children's Chat with his puppets and his singing to support the hymns and his cantor and anthems.

Fr. Tom was privileged to be part of the Service of National Lament and Prayer that was live streamed last night at St. Peters in Lewes.

Scott reported that he attended a two- and half-day conference via zoom online. It was offered for free this year. January 6th through January 8th. They conducted choral readings, keyboard readings and then they had sessions talking doing your job in pandemic and self-care seminars.

Old Business

Sidewalk –

We received a letter saying that we are subject to fines if we do not replace the sidewalk. Jill submitted a letter to the town of Milton, and it was read into the meeting minutes.

Rob Konnyu emailed Jill and said he went to the church looked at the sidewalk and stated he did not believe it was a fall risk. He feels it is a problem with the town because it is cosmetic, not a risk.

It is now up to the town of Milton and we are waiting to hear from them.

Committees –

Jill wants to know if we feel there are any committees needed going forward. Do new ones need to be formed? How are existing committees doing?

Sharon is working on the property committee built up with Roland and possibly Theo.

Fr. Tom feels that he is a committee of one when it comes to stewardship. The vestry likes that the annual stewardship letter comes from him and is signed by him.

We still need a landscape committee chair, when Tom Waite stepped down, he said he will still be willing to organize the spring and fall cleanups. This position is more of a scheduler than anything

else. The position also has to check and remind people who adopt areas to keep up with weeding throughout the season. Jill asked Fr. Tom if he was willing to reach out to him again to see.

Scott brought up the fact that the Parish Communication Committee has been dissolved since the creation of the parish administrator position, the one thing that is now falling through the cracks is Invite, Welcome, & Connect. This is still needed even in this time of pandemic and live streaming.

Fr. Tom had asked Bel to do a narrative of this pandemic and how it has affected the world, the town and the parish, and future generations will be able to read a first-person account and how we were all impacted in 2020.

New Business

Ash Wednesday – The next vestry meeting falls on Ash Wednesday. Jill polled the vestry, and it was decided that we will be meeting Tuesday February 16th at 7.

Vaccines – Fr. Tom raised an issue since he just registered to receive the COVID vaccine. He wondered if it would be beneficial for us as a parish to know who in our congregation has gotten the vaccine. If we had 75% or 80%, people may feel more comfortable attending in person worship.

Parking – We are revisiting the clock maker. The general agreement was to allow them to have two cars, for a fee and if he signed a letter that released the church from any liability. Ed will check on Friday when he talks with Judy and if there is no property tax we will go ahead and ask him to pay a fee per month. Sharon made a motion for an amount of \$25 a month which would be \$300 a year. Clara seconded it, and all were in favor.

Jill had two pieces of correspondence. Scott wrote one to the vestry thanking for the bonus. Fr. Tom also wrote one thanking the vestry for the bonus as well.

At 8:55 p.m. Sharon motion to adjourn the meeting, Clara seconded it, all were in agreement.

Next Vestry Meeting – Tuesday, February 16, 2020, 7:00 via zoom

Respectfully submitted by Scott Kresge, Clerk of the Vestry.