

First Parish UU Church—Bridgewater
Parish Committee Meeting
7pm– 9pm, Thursday, Sept 24, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: AJ Derby, Quent Jarvis, Kat Gillespie, Bob Messing, Sonia D’Alarcao, Laurie Lessner, Rev Paul Sprecher, Deb Poe’Ssepp, Eileen Hiney, Diane Roza

1. **Opening words, check-in, covenant**
2. **Approved minutes** of the July 28 2020 PC meeting (5 min) - Deb motioned, Kat seconded. All approved.
3. **Reopening:** we have had a few participants for the past 2 Sundays. These services have gone smoothly with full compliance with the established health guidelines. Technology allows us to include the sanctuary in the Zoom presentation and a new program provides closed captioning . We will continue to solicit feedback to tweak the services and monitor the in-person participation rate.
4. **Minister’s report:**
 - We need volunteers to change the flags and the quotes in the wayside pulpit. **Rev Paul will put a request into the weekly email.**
 - RE Partnership with Taunton is entering the fall season. The RE committee will reach out to families to inform them of the program to try to generate interest and involvement. April Rosario is holding socially distanced, in-person events like a bonfire and “Trunk and Treat” event for Halloween. She is also holding an adult RE class called Roots. This is a great opportunity for members of both parishes to get to know each other.
 - The BLM reading by SJC went well. Rev Sarah Pearson of Middleboro attended and will “talk up” the event which may expand our circle.
 - Rev Paul scored some BLM lawn signs from First Parish Norwell. These will be available to First Parish members.
5. **Voted on the Ministerial Search Committee:** Eileen Hiney asked the PC to confirm selection of the following members of the Ministerial Search Committee: Eileen Hiney as chair, Kate Martin, Heather Schmid-Medhi, David Tedesco, and Pam Hayes-Bohanan. Sonia motioned, Bob seconded. All agreed. The search committee is working on a survey for the congregation to aid in the search. It is also developing the Congregational Record which describes all aspects of our congregation for review by candidates.
6. **Events Committee:** preparation for the on-line auction is in progress. The contribution form has been sent out. Kat wants to make sure everything gets tracked since this is on-line and new to all of us. Some raised the concern of non-members winning auction items that are social in nature, like dinner at someone’s home. The Events Committee will think about

appropriate safeguards (classifying certain items as member-only, allowing donees to reject bids, etc). It's important to the church for this auction to be successful to boost the financial intake for the year.

7. Facilities:

Dishwasher - no progress as repair person is unresponsive. Tom will ask his friend at Greyhound Tavern who they use.

Roof replacement - we need to install a new roof for the Parish Hall to fix damage from storms. We received \$6700 from the insurance company for repairs. This amount includes roof and chimney flashing replacement. Quent will fix flashing so we can put the whole amount toward the roof replacement.

Note: Jim Slavin helped us get an increased settlement - almost double. We will officially thank him.

We discussed the 3 quotes Quentin received. He feels Huston is too small for this job. Focus was on AAmerican and BJ Sullivan quotes.

Quote can be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dzZrUnUknK22ajCG7br7sJykjShAZ2_K/view?ts=5f6bb9bd

The office roof can wait.

This is a great time to do the work because the parking lot is empty (we will need room for a dumpster) and the weather isn't too cold yet.

Quent asked the companies if they recycled the roofing material. BJ Sullivan said they doubt their disposal company recycles. AAmerican said they recycle but considering the lack of companies accepting roofing material this seems doubtful. It was agreed to not let the recycle component complicate the quoting process. If they can recycle great, if not we will not attempt to recycle ourselves or shop around to find a company that will.

BJ Sullivan has been more pleasant to deal with. AAmerican will throw in 4Star guarantee.

It was agreed payment would come out of the capital account.

The insurance company recommended we trim or remove the trees near the buildings to prevent further building damage. It was agreed that we would remove the leaning spruce tree in front of the sanctuary and replace with another tree, trim or remove the crabapple tree in front of The Hive, and trim the branches of the tree over the office. Quent will get a quote for this work.

8. **Finance Committee:** Should we purchase Online QuickBooks? Jamie has the office computer at her house making it difficult for Kat to manage the books. The Online version has better security (no ransomware). It is more flexible because it's in the cloud which makes the books accessible from any computer. It is on sale now but realistically we should expect to pay \$300/yr. Kat moved to purchase, Diane seconded. All agreed.
9. **Social Justice Committee:** Should we purchase a BLM banner to make it clear to the community where we stand? Rev Paul noted the banner may invite vandalism. North Easton experienced this. Do we need a congregational vote? We did not pursue a vote for the rainbow banner so the conclusion was no, we do not need a congregational vote to buy a BLM banner. Social Justice fully endorses purchasing a banner. PC supports Social Justice in their efforts with BLM. It will cost about \$300 and will come out of SJC's budget. Sonia will write something up for Bridging or a group email. She will have a draft after the next SJC meeting 10/5.