

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020, 2:30PM**

NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER

Chair: Gyllian Davies, Incumbent

Secretaries: Dale Storm & Eva Lam

PRESENT: Judy Tyson (Incumbent's Co-Warden)
Walter Stewart (People's Warden)
Doreen Davidson (Retiring Warden)
Elizabeth Van Akker (Chair, Finance Committee)
Sue Savage (Alternate Synod Delegate)
Anne Clapham
Joan Dickenson
Elaine Hunt
Gloria McEachern
John Metzger
Jim Smith

Absent/Regrets: Dovene Steele (Incumbent's Co-Warden)

Note that the members present make up a quorum (the chair, a churchwarden and one-third of membership [3])

READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of 23 APRIL 2020

Noted that the Housing for the Homeless project was NOT a project by the Parish; sentence removed.

MOVED Gloria McEachern

SECONDED Joan Dickenson

THAT the minutes be approved as corrected. CARRIED.

REPORTS

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email was received from the Wagon Wheel Housing Society regarding the construction of Conestoga Sleeping Huts and seeking permission from Parish Council to display the first "Sanctuary Hut" on the grounds of All Saints for a period of two weeks as a pilot demonstration and open house. After some discussion, it was noted that Parish Council supports the idea but is not at this time able to approve the request due to the current pandemic and social-distancing guidelines. Besides, the Diocese has ordered that all churches be closed, preventing Parish Council from even considering the request.

FINANCE

Update – Walter Stewart

- January through April reports are much more useful than the single month reports. The Profit & Loss figures for January to April 2020 show that the parish is approximately down by \$7,000 in total income compared to the same period last year, but at the same time, total expenses are also down by approximately \$7,000. However, it was noted that this year's insurance bill for the parish has not yet been paid, whereas it had already been paid by April last year. The May statements will provide a more realistic picture of how the parish is doing financially.

Donation Alternatives and Bill Payment Option through CIBC – Walter Stewart

- People continue to contribute by using Canada Helps, the Diocesan Electronic Collection Plate and by mailing cheques.
- Walter Stewart never did hear back from CIBC regarding setting up a bill payment option with CIBC. Part of the problem may be the fact that something needs to be set up with each bank that is used by parishioners and there is a fee.

ACTION: WALTER STEWART WILL SPEAK TO GAIL GAUTHIER, THE FINANCE OFFICER AT THE DIOCESE, ABOUT A BILL PAYMENT OPTION AND HAVING THE DIOCESE SET UP AS A PAYEE, WITH FUNDS ABLE TO BE DIRECTED TO SPECIFIC PARISHES.

- Payments received by e-transfer and the security risk posed by having to answer security questions was discussed.

Government Assistance to the Parish

- The federal government has extended the payroll subsidy program to August 2020 and the status of the Diocese's application will be known next week. The payment will be retroactive to March 15, 2020, and the parish can expect to receive ~\$1,250 per week for the wage subsidy.

BUILDING AND LANDS

ALL SAINTS

Heating Update – Walter Stewart

- Work on the heat pumps has taken longer than planned because workers needed to physically distance themselves. Work is expected to be finished next week, after which Walter Stewart and others will be given a demonstration of the system as well as training.
- The total cost of the heating system is expected to be less than \$48,000.

Outside Users

- Some user groups/interested parties have asked whether they may use All Saints if they respect physical distancing guidelines. Two issues making this not possible were discussed, the first being that the Diocese has ordered the building be closed to all but essential staff, and secondly, cleaning and sanitation after the building was used would be difficult to arrange.
- A brief discussion followed regarding ideas for after the church is open again.

The Garden

- Watering of the garden is an issue that needs to be addressed. The garden needs to be watered regularly during the next few months and the hoses are very heavy, much too heavy for the volunteers who usually water the garden. The installation of an automatic irrigation system was discussed and a request for names of any recommended companies who install irrigation systems was requested by Walter Stewart.

ACTION: WALTER STEWART WILL EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR AN AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

CEMETERIES

Cemetery Grounds' Maintenance with James Leslie – Walter Stewart

- James Leslie now has the contract for the maintenance of the cemeteries under his company Griffon Enterprises Co.

Purchase of 22 Plots

- The Slegg family has purchased 22 plots at Purdy Cunningham Memorial Cemetery and have already buried Ron Slegg there. It was noted that some members of Parish Council felt uncomfortable with this purchase by non-Salt Spring Islanders and a discussion followed on whether

purchases by Salt Spring Islanders should be prioritized and whether the price of plots needs to be raised. At \$1000/plot, we are a lot cheaper than other cemeteries on Vancouver Island.

ACTION: THE CEMETERIES' COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THESE ISSUES (GYLLIAN, WALTER, JUDY, DOVENE, TERRI MANUCK, RON DYCK, DOREEN DAVIDSON, AND DALE STORM); GYLLIAN WILL CALL THE MEETING BY ZOOM SOMETIME SOON.

Landscaping Cemeteries

- Terri Manuck, our Volunteer Cemeteries Coordinator, is working on a proposal for landscaping Purdy Cunningham.

RECTORY – FAMILY PLACE

- Lease has been signed and returned by Rob Grant of Salt Spring Island Community Services, however, no rent cheques have been received yet.
- Johanna Stiver of SSICS was contacted with respect to the discussion last Parish Council meeting regarding Family Place programs. Johanna reported that programs are currently not running, with the exception of the food bank, but funding is still being received from the federal government. She also confirmed that some staff are using the Family Place building to do work (ie. making phone calls).

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

M&O Report

- Elaine Hunt was unable to attend the last two M&O meetings, and therefore, no report was available.

ACTION: ELAINE WILL PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Smile Cards

- The program was temporarily suspended due to the lack of social distancing needed in interacting with people.

Stone Soup project by Gabriel Bonga

- Gabriel provided a soup dinner in Peace Park once a week on Thursdays at 4:00. We are saddened to hear that Gabriel was found drowned near his boat. The project may not continue without him.

PARISH LIFE & GROWTH

Report from Incumbent – Gyllian Davies

- Gyllian Davies has been working hard like everyone else. The liturgy is getting better and better and the music has been outstanding. Thanks was given to David Storm and Ron Dyck for their contribution to the e-Church Services. Good feedback continues to be received for the weekly online services. Appreciation was given for the recorded prayers of the people and in some cases, recorded responses too by a partner. Good feedback has also been received from people outside the congregation who have been tuning into the online services. Closed captions are being used by 33% of YouTube viewers.
- The Diocese is considering what the “new normal” will look like once churches can be open again. This will most likely not include singing together, which will definitely need to be addressed as this is a very musical parish. The idea of perhaps singing together outside was briefly discussed.
- A virtual communion might take place with people in their homes with their own bread and wine.
- Worshipping in “shifts” might also be necessary where one half of the parish worships on one Sunday and the other half, on the next Sunday.

Joint Ministerial Action – Gyllian Davies

- Community Gospel Chapel asked the other clergy on Salt Spring if they wanted to do something together for the community. The Ministerial group decided that the greatest need was in the schools and families needing support. Therefore, after considering their options, the group decided to make a donation to the Salt Spring Island Foundation and to earmark the funds for the schools.

MOTION

MOVED Walter Stewart

SECONDED Judy Tyson

THAT Parish Council approve the donation of \$1,000 from the Incumbent's Discretionary Fund to the Salt Spring Island Foundation with the funds to be earmarked for Country Grocer gift cards for families with children in school. CARRIED.

- After some discussion, the following motion was proposed:

MOTION

MOVED Doreen Davidson

SECONDED Gloria McEachern

THAT Parish Council send the following message to the parish members:

Parish Council notes that parishioners who receive OAS will be receiving a \$300 one-time tax-free payment at the end of this month. For some amongst us, this will be very important money in meeting unexpected and hard to absorb costs as a result of the pandemic. Others of us are fortunate not to really need this money. Parish Council would like to suggest that those fortunate enough not to require this money consider donating this money to the Parish's COVID Relief efforts in the community. Parish Council recently authorized an increase in the Incumbent's Discretionary Fund to meet extraordinary need; authorized a contribution of \$1000 to the Salt Spring Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund; and authorized participation in a relief effort from the Salt Spring Ministerial to reach out to families with children to assist in meeting special needs. In short, there is real need in our community which will not be over soon and may, indeed, grow.

Those who have real need of the money should use it; those who may not have real need please consider donating it to the parish clearly marking your donation for COVID Relief either in the memo line of your cheque which you can place in the parish mail box downstairs at All Saints to the left of the lower entrance or in the notation line on Canada helps: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/48453> . CARRIED.

Star of the Sea – Online Events

- There have been some very successful online events and the next one will be on June 2. Future activities are being looked at. Some participants have even been from off-island.

Transforming Futures Update – John Metzger

- Since the Transforming Futures team was established in November 2019, they have been moving forward with making All Saints' building a centre for the community (Barry Valentine's original dream of the Anglican Centre). An agreement has been signed with the CRD Emergency Services. The services of a building technologist have been obtained to develop a plan for the building, which includes, among others, plans for the kitchens, music room, worship space, and emergency facilities. The services of a building estimator have also been obtained to provide estimates for the work envisaged. Parish Council is currently in the last stages of reviewing those estimates.
- Many small projects will be looked at to make the renovations affordable, such as improvements to the windows, washrooms, kitchens, doors, flooring and lighting.

- The pandemic hasn't really affected these plans, just the timing of the work. The pandemic has actually influenced some plans too, such as making sure the future washroom renovations facilitate cleaning.

DIOCESAN LIFE

Episcopal Succession and the Administrator

- The Episcopal Election has been moved to the end of September 2020, and all corresponding dates are being moved. This may possibly be an "e-election".
- In the interim, rather than having an interim bishop, Ansley Tucker, Dean of Columbia, is now Administrator for the Diocese.

Bishop Logan's New Life

- Bishop Logan is enjoying his retirement. In an interview by the Diocesan Post, he mentioned that part of his retirement includes some woodworking projects.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastoral Care

- A discussion on various parishioners needing prayers took place.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Special Events & Services

- All services and events are cancelled while our buildings are closed.

Adjournment

Elizabeth Van Akker moved that we adjourn at 4:05PM.

Next Parish Council meeting – Thu 18 June 2020, 2:30pm by Zoom video conference.

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These minutes were approved by Parish Council at a subsequent meeting:

Judy Tyson,
Incumbent's Co-Warden

Dovene Steele,
Incumbent's Co-Warden

Walter Stewart,
People's Warden