

Minutes of St Marys' Metchosin Parish Council Meeting
March 16, 2021 -9:15 am
Held on line with Zoom

Chair: Blaine Thauberger
Present: Sharleen Thompson, Loretta Deutscher, David Leigh, Rev. Wally Eamer
Regrets: Russ Mitten, Scott Dolff, Ed Bennington
Opening Prayer Loretta Deutscher
Call to Order at 9:23

Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of February 16th approved.

Discuss Agenda agenda accepted without changes.

CORRESPONDENCE No new correspondence received.

OLD BUSINESS

1. New Public Health Advisories: the Public Health Officer announced that guidelines for Easter worship are being developed, but no announced new guidelines yet. The Bishop has decided that it is impractical to pivot from on line services at Easter with very little notice. We will continue on line services until at least April 12. Comment that the new guidelines may not allow everyone who wants to come to church on Easter Day from attending, which would put congregations and clergy in a bind.
2. Transition Planning: the Wardens put the 2020 Parish Profile to the Bishop, and she has authorized the posting of the full time priest position. Parish Council needs to consider how to meet the financial challenge of a full time priest salary in the next two years.
3. Office Administrator: Andrea needs to focus on her new career by the end of May. We will begin now to seek a temporary replacement, if a suitable person is available, or longer term Office Administrator. Blaine to canvass potential candidates for temporary replacement. Agreed that overlap of up to 8 weeks between Andrea and the new person for training, at potential cost of up to \$700.
4. Signing Authority: updated list of people authorized to sign cheques is underway.
5. Church website: a current and vital website is important to attract new members of the congregation, and inform potential applicants to become the new priest. Discussion of whom to assign responsibility for keeping the site current and vital. Decision to get Wally and Office Administrator to increase and improve website material.
6. Service Planning/Changes/Ideas: general discussion of current online services. No major changes suggested.
7. Envelope Secretary: moved by Loretta, seconded by David, that Donarius software (developed in Canada for church use, sold in Canada and USA} will be purchased (roughly \$100) if other parishes using it are satisfied. We confirmed that Donarius data is stored in Canada, so Canadian privacy protection applies. This will allow the Office Administrator to enter the weekly/monthly revenue reports into the software. The Envelope Secretary job will be simplified to running the year end reports and tax receipts from Donarius.
8. Process update – through Wally Eamer’s email on Safety Plans: no events is the diocesan policy until public health orders are modified.
9. PreSchool Contract - tabled to April 6.
10. Invasive plants on Bilston Creek Slope - tabled to April 6
11. Small Group meetings – tabled to April 6
12. Film Discussion Group – table to April 6

NEW BUSINESS

13. Shaw contract New contract signed, and Shaw updated the modem and infrastructure.
14. 2021 Order of The Diocese of BC discussion of potential nominees in the parish.
15. Frequency of cleaning Use email among Parish Council to determine if cleaning main church [not the preschool space] is required every 6, 4 or 2 weeks during on line services.

Reports as needed

Finance: Blaine reported that an anomaly in 2020 is fixed [our gain], and the revised 2020 Financial Reports are almost complete.

Wardens: no new reports

Buildings: Ed W has been looking for a plumbing company to install an auto shutoff valve on the water line feeding the hot water heater at SMI. Although each of the 3 firms I've reached out to have said they are interested in the job, no one has been able to find the time to send out someone for an estimate. The trades are very busy in this hot construction market. One of the firms now says they want me to take some pictures and send them in, which I will do next week. In my opinion the job isn't really necessary, as the diocese only recommends placing a shutoff on the hot water heaters, not in other areas of the building. Our heaters are reasonably new, and they have an emergency drain system already. But since the diocese is paying, and if I can find a plumber we may as well get it done. I suggest we talk to whoever is doing the roofing job, and get a status update. I believe Ed B knows the fellow involved. Perhaps getting an invoice for the work already completed would also be prudent before starting on the second row of snow stop higher up on the roof, which again in my opinion, may be overkill based on our snow patterns.

April 6: discuss a proposal for an estimate on the exterior stairs.

Renters: no new report

Deacon Wally Eamer: first priority is the congregation and Sunday services. Trying to reduce the number of other ministries, because I can't do the parish work and a quality job of the other ministries.

Updates as needed

Refugee family Not much has changed for the Gills. They have now had their second vaccinations and have passed their medical exams. Medically, they are ready to travel but there is still no indication from the Canadian government when that might happen. We've been told that Canada is prioritizing refugees where settlement was approved before the pandemic, a year ago. The family seems to be in good spirits and we will make more than \$3 thousand on the Metchosin Helps silent auction which can be used to support the family during their wait. While the donations were made by people throughout Metchosin, most of the winning bidders so far have been members of St Mary's. Thanks be to God, and generous parishioners.

Parish Giving the envelope system for giving is not working well with on line services because people cannot come into the church weekly. Some changes need to be considered, although if in person worship begins perhaps the issue will resolve itself.

Messy Church 20 participants last week. All families continue to participate.

Metchosin Challenge Theme of Hope 3 sessions to date, with numbers ranging from 10 to 20+.

Other

- NEXT MEETING April 6th 9:15 am or at call of Wardens

CLOSE IN PRAYER David closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting closed at 10:27.