

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

February 25, 2014

Present: Senior Warden, Murry Edwards, Treasurer, Chris Winslow and Clerk, Christine Cassels, Linda Drummond, Judy Hall, Chris Myers, Marshall Lundberg, Dave Monroe, Pat Sweeney, Paul Westrom, Karen White, and Anna Zambrano, Interim Rector, Greg Prior.
Absent: Interim Assistant Rector, Marilyn Smith Mason; Junior Warden, Harry Gustafson.

Karen began the meeting at 7:10 pm with a prayer and reading on mentorship following a delicious Potluck supper to say thank you and good bye to The Reverend Greg Prior and hello to new members, Judy Hall & Christine Cassels.

Murry reviewed the evening agenda and voiced the New Year priority of hospitality and nurturing leadership to get people involved in parish ministries.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda; motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from January 2014 Meeting: Accepted as written.

Old Business:

Aquidneck Land Trust Update:

The Aquidneck Land Trust (ALT) reports that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (a major source of funding for the ALT's means of paying for the St. Mary's property transaction) has questioned the original appraisal. This will further delay our receiving the funds we borrowed from the endowment to build the new parish hall. The ALT Executive Director Chuck Allot is frustrated and would like to close the deal as soon as possible. This new complication may require an appraisal of the land. Several members expressed concern that additional waiting incurs interest expense on the outstanding construction loan that SMC has. Can other alternatives be discussed such as a special meeting to discuss ALT purchase options in April or May with Chuck Allot, and Annie Sherman-Luke, Chairperson of the ALT Board of Trustees along with Bishop Knisley, Reverend Jennifer Pedrick and the Wardens to discuss next step and options. The vestry agreed to wait a month before acting on these alternatives. Linda suggested that we as a vestry pray every day for a resolution to this land issue.

Old Parish House: Background excerpt from February Senior Warden Report –

A discussion about St. Mary's relationship arose from the Senior Warden's report in which she questioned whether or not St. Mary's should continue its relationship with Island Commons. She based her questions on whether or not the relationship fits our mission statement and is a good fit for us. She also had questioned the financial and legal relationship between Island Commons and St. Mary's Church (SMC). The current fiscal agreement is that the Growers Market (GM) and Island Commons (IC) pay for utilities to operate the old Parish House. It was agreed that SMC cannot subsidize the GM & IC.

The vestry was not aware of issues going on with bill payments or lack of a governing structure for the IC. The Old Parish house tenants need to be on the vestry agenda, and we need an update from Harry and Dave regarding what is going on bi-monthly or quarterly. Martha needs to cc. Dave, Harry and Chris Winslow on emails sent to the leadership group of GM & IC, and also on any bill paying emails.

New Business:

Interim Assistant Compensation for March: With unanimous agreement the vestry approved compensation of \$3,850 in March for Marilyn Smith Mason; April will return to the base rate of \$2,500 per month.

Diocesan Convention:

Vestry agreed to host the Diocesan Convention for November 2014. Murry spoke with Jennifer and she is in favor of the idea.

Easter Vigil-April 19th, 2014:

St. John's on the Point has invited all Island churches to celebrate the vigil with them. The service will begin at 7:30pm. The vestry agreed that SMC will not have a vigil and will encourage people to attend St. John's, with the caveat that Women are allowed to serve on the altar.

Rectory Committee Update: Chris Myers reported that the painting is done in the rectory and that the upstairs bathroom is complete. The floors will be refinished and a new stove needs to be installed before the project is complete. Vestry took a tour of the Rectory and was amazed with the renovations and upgrades. The new employment agreement with the Rector includes ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the property. The past project includes items that were deferred as maintenance for 20 years.

New Rector ETA:

Jennifer and her family intend to move into the Rectory on March 10th. There will be a final cleaning of the Rectory prior to the move in date. Volunteers are needed; Grace Sweeney is the project coordinator. Please respect that Jennifer does not start in a pastoral role until April 1st, all correspondence and communications should wait till after April 1. Jennifer's installation as the 14th Rector of SMC will be scheduled in the future. Her first weekend of services will include a special "Welcome Coffee Hour".

Note: Wiki Training class to be scheduled for old and new vestry members; Murry will coordinate.

Next Vestry Meeting: March 18th, 7:00 pm; Hold dates of May 2nd and 3rd for a Vestry Retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm after Karen led a closing prayer, along with a good bye and laying on of hands blessing to Greg.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Cassels, Vestry Clerk