

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2020

Via Video Conference

Vestry Members Present: Chip Myers (Sr. Warden), Tim Silver (Jr. Warden), Doug Galke, Roy McCraw, Jim West, E.B. Springs, Sterling Hutcheson, Lisa Kaufmann, Jane Milner, and Bill Furr

Vestry Members Absent: Crawford Cleveland

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Amanda White (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

A motion to accept the meeting agenda was made by Sterling Hutcheson with a second from Chip Myers. The Vestry approved the motion.

The following corrections were requested to the minutes of the previous meeting: in the paragraph beginning "Thoughts from Vestry members"-the word come should be changed to comes; in the section describing the process of acquiring a service mark for the Tour of Homes name-make correction to state E.B. Springs will donate an amount to the parish which is equal to the attorney fee; in the section addressing the Vestry member vacancy-add Amanda White to the nominating committee.

A motion was made by Bill Furr, with a second by Tim Silver to accept the previous meeting minutes with these corrections.

The Vestry approved the motion. The Clerk will make the requested corrections.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion from a service for early evening.

Andrew asked those present to share some things they are grateful for during this turbulent time. Some examples shared were good health including a positive report during a checkup, a change of pace in daily routines, the ability to work at home for some, good access to accurate information about the pandemic, and a great caregiver during recovery.

E.B. Springs shared an update on the Tour of Homes Gala.

The current plan is to have a Gala on 9/25/2020 (time to be determined) at the Blowing Rock Country Club. A maximum of 200 attendees will be allowed. Detailed plans are in process. Donations are already coming in for the Tour of Homes effort. To date \$13,700.00 has been received and has been deposited in the dedicated separate account for Tour of Homes.

A grant of \$3500.00 from the Diocese has been approved for the purpose of developing a virtual tour of one of the homes which was to be featured on the tour this year. The online tour will be available at no charge to encourage donations to support the many local agencies the tour proceeds help each year. Bishop Gary Gloster is developing a grant application process that agencies will use to request donations from the proceeds of the Gala. A letter will be sent out to the congregation and attendees of last year's Tour and Gala requesting donations.

E. B. also gave an update on the process of obtaining the service mark for the name and image of the Tour. E.B. reports good progress. He will send the packet of necessary information to the trademark attorney at the end of June. The attorney told E.B. it is definite that a trademark of the image of the red door drawn by Ed Springs will be granted to the parish. The attorney believes we also have an excellent chance to obtain the service mark of the Tour name. There is one

person in the trademark office of the N.C. Secretary of State who is responsible for all such requests and the documentation we are submitting showing we have consistently used the Tour of Homes Blowing Rock name over a long period of time will go a long way toward the parish receiving the approval of the request for the service mark.

E.B. explained the attorney is billing the parish for his time during his interactions with E.B. and the person in the Secretary of State office. To date the parish has received and paid bills from the attorney totaling \$315.00. He believes the total amount billed by the attorney during this process will be between \$600.00 and \$700.00. As stated earlier, E.B. is donating to the church an amount equal to these attorney fees, but not the application fees for the process and the postage for submitting the documentation.

E.B. Springs made a motion to approve the cost of the service mark process at an amended amount up to \$1000.00. This will prevent repeated requests for approval if the attorney fees exceed expectations.

Roy McCraw seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the results of the work of the Nominating Committee approved last month to replace former Vestry member Sharon Battaglia.

At 6:12pm the Vestry went into Executive Session to discuss this matter.

A motion was made by Chip Myers with a second from Bill Furr to accept the proposal of the Nominating Committee.

The Vestry approved the motion.

At 6:20pm Executive Session ended and the meeting continued.

Fr. Andrew shared his proposal for those he wishes to join him on the Nominating Committee for the selection of candidates for the Vestry at the upcoming Annual Meeting:

Chip Myers, Senior Warden and Outgoing Vestry Member

Tim Silver, Junior Warden

Bill Furr, Outgoing Seasonal Vestry Member

Jane Milner, Outgoing Vestry Member

Crawford Cleveland, Outgoing Vestry Member

Sterling Hutcheson made a motion which was seconded by Jim West to approve this Nominating Committee.

The Vestry approved the motion.

The Annual Meeting plans will be announced soon.

Amanda White presented the financial report.

The parish is in a good cash position. The trust and endowments are looking up after the downturn last spring. Pledges are on track.

Amanda reports the guidelines on usage of the funds from the PPP loan were recently relaxed by Congress to allow 60% of the funds to be used solely for payroll expenses rather than 75%.

Amanda will clarify the financial report to show more clearly the PPP related expenses. Andrew will ask Joe Raulerson to send amended documents to Vestry members.

Bill Furr made a motion seconded by Chip Myers to accept the financial report.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Amanda shared the bill has come in from Contero Landscaping. Details will be shared in the Junior Warden's report.

Fr. Andrew presented this month's proposal for allocation of funds from the Outreach Committee.

A total of \$2750.00 was approved by the Outreach Committee to be donated as listed:

\$1000.00 to the Navajo Water Project

\$1500.00 to Rise Against Hunger

\$250.00 to Compassion International.

A question was asked by a Vestry member as to the use of the donation to Compassion International. Andrew explained the funds are needed to assist with medical expenses for a young person the committee is sponsoring. This led to a brief discussion and clarification of the percentage breakdown of local, state, national, and international donations from the Outreach Committee as previously approved by the Vestry. Fr. Andrew noted he will reach out to Bishop Gloster to suggest the committee revisit the breakdown of donations going forward as local needs are seen to be great during this time of pandemic.

Chip Myers made a motion to approve this month's allocation of funds from the Outreach committee as presented.

Roy McCraw seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Tim Silver shared the Junior Warden's report.

Tim noted he is very grateful for the help on oversight of the recent repair to the drainage system from E.B. Springs and Jim West.

Tim reports the water is draining well and coming out nicely on Chestnut Drive as it should.

There is still some work to be done on repairing the concrete to make it match the existing concrete. Tim is looking for someone to do that work.

The bill submitted for the work came in within the contingency amount. Tim noted everything appears to be working well so far, but whether the issue of water in the basement has been fully solved can only be determined when we get a heavy rain. Stay tuned!

Bill Furr sent information to Tim on a sanitizing fogger. Tim will keep this information on hand.

Chip Myers shared the Senior Warden's report.

There will be a Celebration of New Ministry tomorrow evening in the Sanctuary for Fr. Andrew. Social distancing and masking will be in effect. 10 people will be in the church.

Bishop Jose will preside and a dear friend of Andrew's, Bishop Brian Cole of the Diocese of East Tennessee will preach. The wardens traditionally represent the congregation at this service. Tim will be there and Loy McGill, chair of the Discernment Committee, will fill in for Chip who is recovering from surgery and cannot attend. The service will be shared through Zoom.

There will be a dinner in the Parish Hall for those in attendance after the service, also following all CDC social distancing guidelines. Loy McGill is organizing the dinner.

Chip shared that a plaque honoring the amazing generosity of Richard and Mallory Goewey has been placed in the church to acknowledge their gift a few years ago of our wonderful organ.

Previously the plaque had listed the gift of the organ as anonymous. Recently the family requested the plaque be changed to reveal their names.

Amanda White shared a proposal to move \$19000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund into the Capital Improvement Holding restricted account-line item #7129-00 to cover the cost of paying the bill from Contero Landscaping for the drainage repairs and the cost of the new plaque.

E.B. Springs made a motion to approve the transfer of these funds as described by Amanda.

Chip Myers seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

He feels we are holding our own as a parish during this challenging time. We will continue to follow the Diocesan guidelines for any service: indoor services-limited to 10 people; outdoor service or gathering-limited to 25 people.

Andrew shared he is conferring with Kathy Beach, minister at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church, on possible ways to collaborate.

Andrew continues to offer "lawn hours" when weather permits in the Close from 2:30 to 4:30 on Thursday afternoons. This gives parishioners a chance to drop by and check in. More private concerns can always be discussed with Andrew by appointment via Zoom.

He shared he is sad that we cannot all be together for the celebration tomorrow evening.

Fr. Andrew was delighted to share the parish has entered into a letter of agreement with Fr. Sam Tallman as a Priest Associate. Fr. Sam will work 8 to 10 hours per week. This agreement has been approved by Bishop Jose. Andrew feels this is happening at a good time, as more services will probably be needed as the need for social distancing determines out next steps forward when we are able to begin to reopen. Fr. Sam will be a part of tomorrow night's service of celebration representing all clergy in the Diocese. As part of his agreement, Fr. Sam will be required to spend one Sunday per month "in the pews" rather than participating as a priest to recognize the fact he is retired and should enjoy time here as a parishioner as well as clergy.

Jim West commented on the need for Vestry members to reach out again to the congregation by calling those on their parish lists which Andrew provided to Vestry members a few months ago. The Vestry expressed their sincere thanks to Fr. Andrew for his ministry during this very challenging and exciting first year with us.

Bill Furr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm with a second from Roy McCraw. The motion approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry