

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
August 26, 2022

Board Members Present: Heather Winn, President; Amy Summerville-Loomis, Vice President; Eleanor Allen, Treasurer, Sarah O’Connell, Secretary, Trustees: Joanne Harter, Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Catherine Burns, Janine LaClair

Board members Absent:

Others Present: Harriet McMillan, Robert South, Rebecca Carr, Kelly Sackheim

Preliminaries: - Heather

After reading the Board Covenant to us it was established that Eleanor would be our Process Observer for this meeting. The agenda was corrected to note that Robert South and Rebecca Carr are not board members. Eleanor agreed to be the Process Observer.

Call to Order

Heather called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Minutes – Sarah

Amy moved and Janine seconded **that we approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written.** Motion **carried.**

Treasurer’s Report - Eleanor

Angelo was not available due to a family matter. Eleanor reported that we received a check from Church Mutual for \$33,747.33 which is specified as covering damages to personal property, business property, and depreciation and included \$1,234.80 toward the rental of the tent. We also got a letter from them stating that the new premium of \$3,745 will be effective as of October 4, an increase of 16% over last year. They will be contacting the church with the reason for that increase.

Vice President’s Report - Amy

Amy noted that she enjoyed seeing several people from church at Harriet’s brunch, something she has been missing. She stated that she has a couple of goals going forward, to sit down with the Finance Committee to see where we are and to do a walk-through of the church to see what is going on there with the progress on the building repairs.

President’s Report / Executive Committee Report- Heather

No report

Committee Reports

Finance Report - Eleanor

Eleanor noted that the Finance Committee hasn’t met for some time. Last year it included her, Harriet and Robert (as Vice President). Going forward, the committee will consist of her, Harriet, Amy, and Sarah. She hopes to hold a meeting at the latest by early October, to look at the insurance policy as well as other topics. Angelo will be able to meet with us. We will bring a list of financial priorities to the board for approval, including the insurance settlement, the payment for Diego, a set aside for possible future needs, e.g. roof replacement. Rebecca noted that she would like to attend as well.

Building and Grounds Report – Rebecca

Rebecca reported that she sent several photos to Heather and will share them with the rest of the board. She walks through the church once or twice a week to monitor progress in a walkabout and

take photos. Painting is almost done but there is still lots of detail work, like reinstalling molding, finishing the bathrooms, putting the kitchen cabinets and fixtures back in. She noted there had been a problem with a crack appearing in the informal lounge floor. Board members wondered if certain rooms could be cleaned up enough for the blood drive scheduled for September 2. She also noted that we may want to look at purchasing a new lawn mower over the winter if we want to or use a lawn service. She reported that the security system is not operational. Kevin Burke went through the specifications and will work with us on an RFP (Request For Proposal) and review whatever estimates we receive. The Doyle account is paid annually. Other concerns she noted were the clerestory windows leaking and the need for a replacement roof in the RE wing. She received one estimate so far from Tibbles. It was noted that the board has already voted to replace that roof; we just need to have estimates to choose from. We also need a provider for snow plowing. Rebecca will share further information with the Finance Committee. Amy again noted she would like to do a walk-through; the next Sunday (August 28) there will be an informal potluck because some of the congregation members are going to be at Unirondack, so those present at the church can get a look then.

Outreach Report - Catherine

No report but Catherine brought up the idea of getting involved with UU the Vote to encourage unregistered voters to do so before the fall election. Eleanor also mentioned that there is a Women's March in October in Washington, D.C. and wondered if we could partner with a local organization.

Worship Report – Eleanor

Eleanor reported that the committee is meeting on Thursday and will discuss how we can continue to work with Rev. Dr. Hurt, possibly having her prepare a Zoom service once a month until she has enough information to visit and conduct an in-person service and conversations with the congregation.

Religious Education

No Report.

Ad Hoc Committees

Transition Team

Sarah noted that Rev. Dr. Hurt had submitted questions for the board to answer. People can submit their written answers via email but a special board meeting is planned for **Wednesday, August 31 at 9:30** to record a Zoom discussion on the questions.

New Business

1. Thanksgiving: Harriet asked about if we were going to have a Thanksgiving meal at church. Catherine asked if it would be ready at that point. She noted that we might be able to coordinate with Emmanuel and do it in that location. Harriet will seek interest in the newsletter.
2. Memorial Garden Committee: It was noted that Heather as president needed to appoint a Memorial Garden committee. Catherine agreed to be the chair; other members include Robert, Paula and Sarah. **Heather made those appointments officially.**
3. Membership and Activities Committee: It was noted all the things we do to retain and recruit members, such as social justice, new member orientation, the Common Read, rummage sales, etc. [Catherine stated she would rather serve on the Memorial Garden committee than what was called Outreach.] It was proposed that we create a standing committee called the Membership and Activities committee, to be charged with maintaining and tracking members;

education, engagement and retention. **Eleanor moved and Sarah seconded and the motion carried.** The committee will start off comprised of Robert, Harriet and Kelly.

4. Common Read: Harriet recommended that the board offer a “common read” over the next church year of a book called “Bloodlands” by Dr. Timothy Snyder. **Sarah moved and Amy seconded; the motion carried.**

Special Board Meeting

The board will have a special meeting by Zoom on Wednesday, August 31 at 9:30 a.m. to respond to the questions sent by Dr. Hurt.

Next Board Meeting

The Board meets on the 4th Friday of the month by Zoom at **9:30 am**. The next meeting will be held on **Friday, September 23, 2022**.

Eleanor again stressed that she would like to see us do something for the October 8 Women’s March event, and she will send something to Harriet for the newsletter.

Process Observer Report - Eleanor

Eleanor noted that the meeting went extremely well, the discussions were very friendly and we got an awful lot done. We also had other members of the congregation present. We can applaud ourselves.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah O’Connell, Secretary