

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY
Board of Trustees Minutes
March 24, 2022

Board Members Participating: Heather Winn, President; Robert South, Vice President; Eleanor Allen, Treasurer; Patricia Sutherland, Secretary; Trustees: Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Rebecca Carr, Catherine Burns

Board Members Absent: Joanne Harter (excused), Catherine Burns

Others Participating: Harriet McMillan (Newsletter and Transition Team) Angelo Guarino, (Bookkeeper)

Preliminaries

Rebecca read the Board Covenant to us. Robert agreed to be the Process Observer. Heather called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

Acceptance of Agenda: Robert added items to New Business and Rebecca has a new item regarding the RE wing roof, which will be presented under the B&G report.

Officer's Reports

Minutes - (Patricia)

Eleanor **moved** and Rebecca seconded **to accept the minutes as written**. There was no vote. Shannon moved **to amend her quoted reference under “Building & Grounds” as inaccurate**. There was no second. Then Robert **moved** with Eleanor seconding **that the words “ Shannon brought up the name of ROR Northeast - Upstate NY Program Specialist from whom we had a bid for Flood I repairs” be removed from the minutes**. Then Robert **moved** and Eleanor seconded the motion **“to accept the Minutes with the caveat that we eliminate the last sentence on page two (2)”** (which is quoted above). There was no vote.

Treasurer's Report - (Eleanor)

We are three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) through the fiscal year and all is working well. There is one error in the report under: Expenses, Small Tool and Equipment, which should have gone under the NYSCU Grant Expense: \$999 for a computer. (Angelo noted that he has corrected this in his bookkeeper program.) Eleanor noted that in January's Treasurer's report Angelo had not entered his own payment of \$500 and this will be corrected. Patricia questioned the amount of \$5545.61 under Insurance Expense, when we budgeted for only \$4700. Angelo noted this may include Worker's Comp Insurance, which could be listed under Payroll Insurance, if the Board requests this. Work for next year's budget could include this change. The Religious Education expense of \$233.33 is for the RE assistant. The last question was about the Gas & Electric expense for February being \$1,987. This is apparently due to the flood, the need to keep the building aired out to avoid mold, and the expense of removing the flood water.

The process of determining the next fiscal year budget is planned to begin the first week in April.

Vice President's Report - (Robert)

Since we are not able to use the building, Robert has cancelled all indoor gatherings that were scheduled here for June and July. The Memorial Service for Dr. Heap is scheduled to be outside on June 19. Hospice is having a big event on April 1 and may use our parking lot for overflow parking. The Juneteenth celebration planned for June 18 will not be able to use our campus as had been planned.

President's Report - Heather)

None. (She has been and still is ill.)

Committee Reports

Executive Committee - no report

Finance Report - no report

Building and Grounds - Rebecca

1. Church repair - We are waiting for a check for basic repairs, with other items still in negotiation. Diego will get paid for work he has already completed.
2. RE roof is badly damaged from years of weather abuse. She knows we need to replace it with no skylights and a metal roof. She has asked for bids and has received one (1) so far. Rebecca made a **motion**, seconded by Patricia, that **we replace the RE wing roof with a metal roof, without the skylights, and with needed structural repairs along with replacing the ruined insulation. Carried**
3. Lawnmower: This was taken to Burrville Power Equipment for a tune up where it was learned that it also needs a new battery and new tires. This is a mower from the early 90's. The Board would like to compare estimates for repairs with the cost of a new lawn mower. Another option is to repair for this year and prepare for a new mower in the next budget. Rebecca **moved**, seconded by Eleanor, that **we enable voting by email after receiving information from Rebecca comparing the cost of repair versus replacing the mower, and getting the information to us. Carried.**
4. Accommodations for the outdoor memorial service for Dr. Heap on June 19th will most likely require a large tent and chairs. His family is planning the service.

Outreach - (Catherine absent)

Placing a Land Statement on the church website was talked about in a Board meeting last year. Robert told us he had recently placed a Land Statement on our website. He asked for approval of his statement. There was discussion. The Board would like to verify the claims made in the statement. Robert **moved**, seconded by Eleanor, that **we remove the Land Statement from our website for further modification and Board approval. Carried.**

Worship - Eleanor

No report.

Religious Education - no report

Ad Hoc Committees

Transition Team: - Eleanor

Rev. Hurt, our Transition minister, has written a letter of introduction to our church which will be printed in the April Newsletter. We would like her to hold an in person meeting, after she comes to Watertown in May, and introduce herself to the congregation. The Board has already authorized \$1,000 for Rev. Hurt's travel expenses and hotel accommodations.

New Business

1. Robert:

a. General Assembly representatives. This year it will be in Portland OR as well as online.

b. Does the Nominating committee need a new member? The committee needs to be asked. Heather will pursue this.

c. Church Covid policy has fallen in disuse with the decline of the covid-19 virus. Eleanor proposed allowing small groups to use the building e.g. the book club. The Board needs to make the decision about this. The mask mandate in NY State has been repealed for the most part. Masks can be optional. There is a new variant out now but so far it is not a serious problem here.

The question arose of getting our congregation together at another site while we wait for the church repairs. Harriet volunteered to ask Asbury church if we could use their space. We also discussed getting a tent for outdoor gatherings.

d. Robert proposed an outside Rummage Sale and stated he would work with Joanne Harter to plan this.

e. Annual Meeting: The NYState legislature has allowed 2 years of online gatherings for annual meetings, which otherwise are mandated to be only meetings in person. Heather found that our state governor in November 2021 said that we non-profit organizations could hold annual meetings in a hybrid meeting. We could also use a tent, which might be needed also for the following Sunday's Memorial service for Dr. Heap. A definite decision was not made but is under consideration. Our flood insurance might cover the cost. Rebecca will ask Sol, our adjuster, about this.

2. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of finding another site where our members could get together in person for weekly meetings while we wait for the church to be repaired. Many different sites were suggested and will need to be checked out. We are still looking at about 5 months before our church will be usable for Sunday services in our sanctuary.

Process Observer - Robert

We still talk over other people, although it seems to work.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia J. Sutherland, Secretary