

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2020 at 5:30pm

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, Bill Furr, Crawford Cleveland, and Gigi Poole

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 minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed and a few corrections need to be made: The date for the Tour of Homes Gala is 9/24/20.

The amount of money moved from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Capital Improvement Holding restricted account (line item 7129-00) is \$15000.00.

In the last paragraph describing the motion to adjourn the meeting, the word Vestry should replace the word motion.

Bill Furr made a motion to accept the June minutes with the listed corrections.

Jane Milner seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

The Clerk will make the noted corrections.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion.

Andrew led a discussion of checking in with those present. He asked where we are finding joy in these challenging days. Some responses shared were a visit from grandchildren, fishing at sunrise, walking outside, enjoying the book study led by Fr. Sam Tallman-"On the Brink of Everything", observing the commitment and dedication of those called to possible service on the Vestry.

Fr. Andrew offered prayers for all those affected by COVID-19 and for Tim Silver and his family as they grieve the loss of Tim's mother.

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

The Gala is scheduled to be held on 9/24/20 at the Blowing Rock Country Club from 5:30 to 8:00. The Gala may possibly be held on 2 consecutive nights if interest is sufficient. All COVID-19 CDC guidelines will be strictly observed. The space can hold up to 88 guests under the 50% occupancy guideline. Food will be served while guests are seated at tables and masks must be worn whenever guests leave their tables.

A grant was received from the Diocese to produce a virtual tour of the home of Bo Henderson and Ed Springs. The video is currently being edited and will be available at no cost. Viewers will be asked for donations.

There is a possibility that the membership list of the Country Club may be made available for donation solicitations. A couple of members of the Tour/Gala committee are working on this. Gigi Poole offered to share the mailing list for her neighborhood to the committee as well.

Save the Date postcards have gone out to parish members. Electronic invitations will be sent out a couple of weeks prior to the Gala.

E. B. reports the Country Club has held several recent events while adhering to the CDC guidelines and the committee feels they have a good system in place.

Final approval from the Diocese is still needed but E.B. feels it will be approved.

The committee meets next on 8/14/20 and will make a final decision to proceed with the Gala pending the Diocesan approval and no new issues arising.

Chip Myers noted around \$35000.00 has been raised for the Tour effort so far.

E. B. reported there is no new information to share this month on the request for the service mark.

Fr. Andrew shared much good work took place at the meeting of those discerning a call to Vestry service. The Nominating Committee of Chip Myers, Tim Silver, Crawford Cleveland, Bill Furr, and Jane Milner have decided on 1 seasonal Vestry candidate and 4 year round Vestry candidates.

Andrew shared a prayer for all those willing to serve on our Vestry.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.

The current financial statements were shared with Vestry members via email prior to the meeting. Amanda reviewed the financial status of the parish. We are in a good cash position and are on track in receiving pledges.

Amanda responded to a question about the PPP program funds. Joe Raulerson is keeping track of those funds in a separate ledger and the PPP funds received are in a separate bank account. Chip Myers noted that detail of the amount received and dispersed is available to Vestry members. Fr. Andrew asked Amanda to supply that information to Vestry members each month with the financial reports.

A Vestry member asked if it would be possible to change the format of the financial reports. Amanda noted she inherited the current format, but noted there are clearer formats available. Roy McCraw suggested asking the Finance committee to explore this issue. Amanda agrees and will bring this issue to the committee. Jim West will share with Amanda one format he is familiar with.

Tim Silver made a motion to accept the financial report.

Jim West seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Chip Myers presented the proposed monthly fund allocation from the Outreach committee.

The Outreach committee voted to approve donating \$1000.00 to the Back to School festival in Boone for all local students.

Chip Myers made a motion to approve this allocation from the Outreach committee.

Lisa Kaufmann seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew reported the Finance committee has completed a draft of a financial policy and procedure manual. The committee has been working on this project since September 2019. Andrew will send this draft to Vestry members so they may review and give feedback.

Tim Silver shared the Junior Warden's report.

The basement is still dry following the recent drainage work.

Tim is still looking for someone to do the necessary concrete work after that project.

Contero Landscaping still needs to supply the promised photos of the project. Jim West offered to follow up on that.

Chip Myers shared the Senior Warden's report

The new plaque showing recognition to the Goewey family for their generous gift of our organ was installed on 7/15/20. Chip suggested the Vestry reach out to the family expressing our gratitude.

Fr. Andrew shared a photo he took of the installed plaque and is planning to share it in the next newsletter and his weekly epistle.

The suggestion was made to remind the parish of the process of the renovation and capital campaign which the gift from the Goewey family inspired.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

Andrew noted this is our 5th Zoom Vestry meeting and last Sunday was the 19th Sunday since in-person worship was suspended due to the pandemic. Andrew continues to have bi-weekly phone calls with Bishop Jose to continue to plan and work together.

Fr. Andrew reminded the Vestry he is starting Communion in the Close this week. These services will be offered at various times weather permitting and will follow strict CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Andrew notes that 2 physicians on our Vestry (Lisa Kaufmann and Sterling Hutcheson) helped him in the planning of the service format. Parishioners must sign up online in advance and the services are limited to no more than 8 households/20 people. Andrew continues to search for other ways for our parish to safely worship.

The parish annual meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting on Sunday, August 30. Our parish is the first in the Diocese to hold an annual meeting in this way, as we hold our meeting earlier in the year than most other parishes (usually to accommodate seasonal members).

Fr. Andrew shared that Peter and Valerie Purcell have agreed to chair our stewardship effort again this year.

Andrew is starting a new book study on "The Cross and the Lynching Tree". This is a book recommended by Bishop Michael Curry as he encourages parishes to work toward understanding of racial and economic injustice.

Jim West shared he has had some issues with access to the Rector's forum. Andrew will check on this.

Doug Galke shared the Vestry's appreciation to Fr. Andrew for his leadership during this difficult time and Andrew shared his gratitude to the Vestry for their support.

Tim Silver made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54pm with a second from Jim West. The Vestry approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry

