

St. Thomas' Vestry Meeting
September 18, 2023
6:00 pm

Present: Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br. Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Terry Mello, treasurer; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk

Sarah Groman, Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Benjy Lowry, Jan Lyle, Kendra Watkins.

Senior Warden opens the meeting at 6:00pm, Junior Warden leads opening prayer.

Senior Warden reminds us that we are starting a new chapter in the life of St. Thomas, and encourages us to look forward and focus on the future. Thanks the group that put together the reception for Rev. Lisa's final Sunday at St. Thomas'.

Benjy moves to accept August 21 minutes as read, second Gwen. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: In general doing well. Will be a tight final quarter because we are paying both Rev. Lisa's salary and the salary of a half time interim rector through the end of the year. We are within budget, and things will work out. In 2024, if we have a half time rector and office administrator, our budget will drop significantly. No major changes to donations. The summer fair raised approximately \$5100 net. CD's matured and moved the funds to a money market brokerage account with agreement from Phil Groman, Finance Committee Chair. **Finance report is filed for audit.**

Treasurer reads the Housing Resolution. As per Diocesan requirements, the Vestry approved Rev. Paul Briggs' housing allowance as stated in the Letter of Agreement approved by the Vestry.

Jan moves to accept; second Benjy. Discussion follows. Motion passes.

Senior Warden's Report: The warden feels that we are in a good place; that we are very fortunate to have called Rev. Paul Briggs to be our interim, beginning September 24.

Junior Warden's Report: During the 9/16/23 hurricane, we learned that our emergency lights do not work. The junior warden has reached out to Hedstrom's Electric, who will come and inspect the system. Hedstrom's will also run power to the sign on the front lawn. The treasurer requests an estimate. The tenant in the rectory requested a new lock; junior warden replaced. He will also research a fire escape for the apartment and check in with the historic resources committee regarding exterior placement. Senior warden reports that parishioners will clean up the tree limbs ahead of the wedding scheduled for Friday 9/22.

New business:

Seacoast Security list needs to be updated: Terry is handling this and has added herself to the list so that there is a current parishioner on call. Kendra notes to consider adding John Watkins as well.

Stewardship: Jan Lyle and Terry Mello are chairing the stewardship committee, with the theme Rooted in Abundance. The first planned event is a pancake breakfast at 9am on October 15, and a community Thanksgiving dinner.

Worship: Senior warden reports that Dr. Suzanne Roberts from the Diocese of Maine will lead worship and meet with the parish on October 22. Organ repairs are scheduled with a professional organ repair company. The organist is quite pleased that the vestry has taken on the project.

Communications-Office Manager Position: Posted on the Diocesan website and internally. One resume on file. Terry will continue to pursue more places to post the position including posting in local newspapers; and emphasizes that to be most successful we need one person at 20 hours per week, rather than two people at ten hours each. Terry has agreed to continue with what she has been doing but requests all understand that she does not work for St. Thomas' and is asking for the same respect as other volunteers.

Meeting adjourns to executive session at 7:05 pm.

Meeting resumes at 7:25 pm.

This vestry will prioritize the establishment and approval of a computer use policy, ideally prior to the employment of the interim rector. Will be added to the October vestry agenda. Delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention are registered and certified.

A discussion regarding the importance of confidentiality took place.

Senior warden closes the meeting in prayer at 7:40pm.