

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon Trustees: Bill White, Thomas Duffy Members: Yolande Eldridge, Sue Croce, Beth Kozarec, Debra Falvey, Elaine Carter, Maureen Fuest, Greer Koerner, Jill Kennelly, Carol McCormick, Margot Burkle Youth (Peer Ministry) Representative: Conner DeBoda

Absent: Stephanie Deixler, Valerie LeShane, Harold Hutchinson Youth Representatives: Matt Celotto, Gabriel Mongelli

Opening Prayer: Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:35

Trustee Appointment: Margot Burkle was thanked for her service to the Parish Council as she retires from her position as Trustee. Thomas Duffy was welcomed as the new St. George Trustee. Thomas Duffy introduced himself.

The Parish Council welcomed our new Parish Liaison, Fran Wainer.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Pastor Update: Father Dillon advised that the Finance Committee, having reviewed options, has encouraged committing to the minimum allotted fundraising objective for the **Forward with Faith Campaign**. The Finance Council suggested using the funds to be raised for repairs to the Sullivan Center roof, the perimeter wall, and the sidewalks. They recommended adding a columbarium (structure to hold cremated urns) to the St. George Cemetery. The archdiocese recommended including a position with a ministerial aspect to the St George staff. This staff member would focus on bringing the 20-30 year old demographic into the Church and addressing the needs of that group.

The Finance Committee chose the minimum recommended fundraising objective for St. George, as set by the archdiocese. This decision to move forward with this recommended amount was based on the significantly reduced attendance at Church and religious education during the pandemic. A building project to expand the Sullivan Center, will be re-evaluated in the future. The next step in this process is determining a cost estimate for each of the suggested projects.

Father Dillon was pleased with the Christmas celebration and attendance. He is hopeful that attendance will improve for Lent, as the pandemic is more controlled. He advised there is one person in the RCIA program this year. He advised that Confirmation for each parish in the Archdiocese is to be held at the Cathedral in Hartford. First Communion and First Confession are scheduled at St. George.

Discussion of the Lazarus Ministry was tabled at this time.

Church Staff Liaison Report: Fran reported that the Grade 2 Retreat in the Church Hall is scheduled and will be in person. She also advised that all CCD classes are held in person..

The subject of the Parish Council website tab was discussed. It was decided that all members would submit a headshot to be posted with their name. This is due one week before our next meeting—Feb.20 A brief bio may be added now, or in the future. Members should send their headshot to Fran at fwainer@stgeorgequilford.org by 2/20/2022.

Youth Representative Report: We were informed that the Confirmation Retreats at Trinita are on schedule and going very well.

Plans are to assemble more than 5 backpacks for the Prison Re-entry Ministry. The Peer Ministers are meeting with the 9th and 10th grade Confirmation classes over the next couple of weeks to suggest items for class members to contribute to the project. They will also email the parents of all 9th and 10th grade Confirmation students to suggest an alternative monetary donation as an option. The Parish Council was advised that the Peer Ministers enlisted the help of a club at Guilford High School to contribute female hygiene products.

The Youth Representatives will submit an article for the bulletin through the contact, Fran Wainer. They will also schedule some pulpit time at the end of Mass to inform the Parish Community about their project, needs, and where and how to submit donations and items.

Committee Updates: ESCA is writing their 5 year strategic plan and is looking for input from their three sponsoring parishes. They are reaching out to the parents of ESCA students, the Pastors and the Parish Communities with a brief survey. The members of the Parish Council were emailed a survey for their input about ESCA. Individual responses are due by 2/19/22 and will be collated as a group (Pastoral Council) submission.

It was reported that the ESCA students prepared Blessing Bags for Abraham's Tent.

The Drive-in Movie Project was discussed. It was decided that the equipment will be rented at an approximate cost of \$2000-\$2500. It was suggested and agreed that a non-perishable food item donation be included with paid admission to support the food pantry. The question of using proceeds from the event to support a charity was raised but the project is expected to just cover expenses. The purpose of the drive-in is to allow members of the community to interact in a friendly, welcoming, community based atmosphere. It's focus is not as a fundraiser. The Men's Group will be contacted for their interest in participating with food options that may be offered during the movie. The Principal of ESCA will be contacted to see if older students would be interested to volunteer to work at the drive-in Movie.

The council was previously advised that the Holiday Caroling at area Nursing Homes was successful. The Carolers were invited into the facilities and had a great time.

There was a discussion about whether in-person Ministry Meetings would resume? Father Dillon reported that he is hopeful that in-person meetings may be able to resume next month, as long as the number of Covid cases continues to decline. In person meetings will require the wearing of masks. Some groups may prefer to continue with Zoom meetings.

The next Parish Council meeting may be in person. Email notification will be sent prior to that meeting.

Meeting was closed with a prayer at 7:48.