



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Catskills**
Sunday Services at 10:30 am

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/15/23

Present:

Kristen Schara, Co-President; Erin Hilgart, Co-President; Kathy Atwell, Treasurer; Lydia McCaw, Secretary
Trustees: Donn Critchell, Christie Billeci, Kathy Eberlein

Guests: Donna Schlachman, Shaniqua Bowden, Carma, Lois Slade, Weston, Karen Miller, Kai Lord-Farmer,
Reverend Diane, Weston (Did anyone catch Weston's last name?)

The meeting began at 9:32 am with Kathy Atwell lighting the chalice as she read centering words. Board members then shared in a check-in.

Shaniqua Bowden and Weston presented from Kingston Land Trust and TapRoot Community Land Trust

- History - the group began in summer 2019, with a mission to focus on supporting BIPOC community and low-income residents.
- Why CLT is Needed - Goal is to designate permanently affordable homes, prevent real estate speculation and price inflation, stabilize neighborhoods, and help lower income families. This is a proven model dating back to the Civil Rights Movement and has been successfully utilized in other cities, including the nearby Albany.
- TapRoot - The program involves 2 types of members (residents and supportive community members). These members elect a 9 person Board of Directors (3 Resident Representatives, 3 Community Representatives, 3 Public Representatives)
- Buying process - 99 year ground lease, Shared-Equity, Subsidy retained by CLT at resale to ensure lasting affordability
- TapRoot - Working with RUPCO (housing development and legal services) and KLT (community outreach and startup expenses)
- Q&A session - Does the farmhouse have enough facilities to support what CLT would want to use it for? Could we sell the entire property to them and rent the sanctuary? We would probably have to adapt for the unique situation, but CLT seems eager to work with us.

- Intent of building and grounds meeting in January. Talk to RUPCO about what is needed to bring the farmhouse up to par or insurable as a second proposal.
- Presentation by Land Trust and RUPCO. What costs are involved to give the Farmhouse away such as upgrades, new well and septic system. Need to find out how it will be taxed so the property doesn't go into foreclosure. Taproot should be the ones to get this information. Vic was thinking about having us do the upgrade. State interfaith group might be interested if we get rid of all our land.
- Information meeting with facts to be presented, not a voting meeting. Workshop theme to start conversation not make a decision.
- Have we contacted relators to sell the space and possibly rent from the buyers?
- Christie will take the lead onto prepare information for January 21st and will contact Taproot
- Question to be decided with the community: What is our role in providing housing for low-income people?

Review of minutes

Motion to accept the minutes made by Christie, seconded by Kathy. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer will pay directly for Rev. Diane

Some payment needs to be changed by the Treasurer for example: Grant money, Mailchimp

What is the status of our current cleaner. \$45/week and get a Kathy will get a quote from UDIN group.

Christie makes a motion to accept. Kristen seconds. Motion passed.

President's report

Erin will talk to Rita about Mailchimp, newsletter, etc.

Suggestion box location will be moved to a more obvious location.

Bylaws policy review and rental policy.

Volunteers are needed so we don't have all rentals come to the Board president

Perhaps organizations we support could get a reduced rate.

Suggestion to set up a Rental committee.

Lois and Erin will discuss the rental policy and return the suggested policy to the Board.

Committee Reports

Election of delegates need a possible change of the bylaws so it can be done before the Annual Meeting. Bylaws will be reviewed by a board member Kathy Atwell and someone else, Joyce White possibly

Jane contracted with social media because Rita is not interested. Jane has started \$6/week hosting. We will pay \$75 a week. We would pay for work already done through January. Motion Erin, second Christie; all accept

Jane comes to teach RE twice a month but is only paid for one session a month. We could take the money from the Minister's salary. \$3000/year would increase her yearly salary for this fiscal year. Motion Donn, second Christie; all accept.

Worship committee wants to have Rev. Leonisa do a service. Should the COSM or Board be involved with Rev. Leonisa or leave it to the Worship Committee? Worship Committee should handle it. We can invite back previous ministers without waiting one year as we do not have a minister at the present time.

Joyce White wants to subsidize members to go bowling. Should we let them work it out amongst themselves—pay it forward or out of their committee fund or from Carma who has access to the minister's discretionary fund. We need to look at this on a case-by-case basis. Decision to be made by committee leader.

New Business

Consideration of opening up the ministerial search committee to the congregation again and adding diversity as a requirement. We ultimately decided against this as we are not considering this a new committee but a continuation of last year's search.

Thank-you notes

Christie will send Karl a thank you note. Karen Miller and Kathy Kasner will also get notes.

Motion Erin, second Donn all accepted to adjourn.

Next meeting(s): Dec 20 On Zoom. 9:30 AM

Donn will do chalice lighting next time.