



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

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Pop Up Board Meeting

Date: 9/1/23

Present:

Kristen Schara, Co-President; Erin Hilgart, Co-President; Kathy Atwell, Treasurer; Lydia McCaw, Secretary
Trustees: Don Critchell; Kathy Eberlein;
Carma Haas, Assistant Treasurer
Guest: Lois Slade

Discussion regarding the farmhouse, now that Play Haven is definitely leaving

- Can we hand it off to the county?
- Is it worth keeping and continuing to invest further time and money in?

Discussion of the Chimney in the farmhouse

- The recommendation from B&G is to leave things as they are for now.
- Erin suggested more sensitive carbon monoxide detectors to make sure the farmhouse remains safe - looking at \$100-200 cost and may need to be bought from a contractor who may also charge a small fee to install.

Discussion of installing Heat Pumps in the farmhouse

- The building is very drafty and we would need to insulate in order for them to be effective.
- None of the estimates we've looked into have considered the cost of running the heat pumps once they're actually in use.
- Donn has experience with heat pumps and says they are very efficient in terms of electricity use.
- Further research will be done to see what our current electricity costs are and how the addition of heat pumps in the farmhouse might change this.

Discussion of Grants to fund

- Partners for Climate Action is offering a grant - up to 100k - to cover the installation of green energy equipment.
- We need to make a decision about the farmhouse before we apply for grants - we don't want to lock ourselves into having to use the money for the farmhouse when we could perhaps more usefully apply for the same grant to further update the sanctuary.

- After the Chalice Lighter grant has ended, there's another grant we've been encouraged to apply for to further fix up the sanctuary.

Final Decision was made to install the Carbon Monoxide detectors as suggested by Erin. B&G will handle buying and installing these. Further discussion of what to do with the farmhouse has been postponed to the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm