



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

Sunday Services at 10:30 am

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: April 24, 2023

Present:

Mark Howenstein, President; Dr. Erin Hilgart, Vice President; Carma Haas, Treasurer; Tom Hackett, Secretary

Trustees: Don Critchell; Kathy Eberlein; Joyce White

The Rev. Bob Janis, Minister

Lois Slade, Assistant Treasurer

The meeting began at 10:03 with Rev. Bob playing a music video from Flaming Lips and lighting the chalice. Board members then took turns reading from the covenant and shared in a check-in.

Review of minutes

Erin pointed out that there were not minutes of the email vote to approve the lighting project. Tom will include those minutes for the May meeting.

Donn moved to accept the minutes of two other email votes. Carma seconded the motion, which was past with a unanimous vote.

Carma moved to approved the March meeting minutes. Joyce seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Carma distributed a narrative report, the Budget vs. Actuals report and the Balance Sheet through 3rd quarter prior to the meeting. She reported that at the time of our meeting, pledges for 2023-24 totaled \$120,661 from 87 members. Mark will include this in his newsletter column.

The Meet & Greet events were successful, thanks in no small part to Lois.

Thanks to Lois also for calling 20 people while Carma was away.

Next year's budget needs to come in two versions: one based on having a new minister; the other assuming we have no minister.

There was a discussion on the likelihood of Play Haven leaving. We will propose a 6 month contract, then month-to-month. This, of course, brought up a discussion on the future of the farm house. It was pointed out that the water supply for the sanctuary comes from the farm house, so it must be heated to prevent the pipes from freezing.

We are expecting recommendations for half-plate recipients from Social Justice.

Tom moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Donn seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

President's Report

Mark reported that we have hired Rita Ruotolo as our office administrator with a six month initial contract.

Budget meetings are set for 5/7 & 5/21. [The 5/7 meeting was subsequently postponed to 5/9 via Zoom.] The annual meeting will be on 6/11, with a Bon Voyage party for Bob on 6/18. [Your secretary originally typed "Bob Voyage."

Minister's report

Rev. Bob will lead a Worship Leader Workshop on 5/21. A follow-up is possible if there is interest. – 4:00

Rev. Bob reported that Rita is learning very quickly. She will put out the newsletter this week. Carma will speak with her about website updates.

Committee Reports

Donn distributed the reports prior to the meeting.

PRIDE is June 4. The Worship Committee is urging people to attend the parade New Paltz in lieu of service. The building will be closed for lighting update.

The welcome message on Zoom will be changed for June 4. [Subsequently, the Worship Committee decided to direct people who are not attending the parade to a previously recorded service.]

Ministerial search

Cathy reported that there has been no change in the ministerial search. But Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer says not to worry.

RE Concerns

A member of the congregation was invited to speak to the Board about some RE concerns. They are concerned with less than ideal environmental practices, such as single use plastics. Children should be seeing correct modeling for environmental practices.

They are also interested in Green Sanctuary, Ten Green Commandments, etc. These should be in our policies, they felt. They are willing to be a resource and a link between the Climate Action Team and RE.

There was also concern about the pandemic protocol, specifically as it applies to RE. The first year of in person services, the protocol was straightforward—everyone was masked. The last several months have not been consistent. They want to be notified when the protocol changes. They asked if there are any mitigation policies for RE, for example if a sick child attends.

BoT, COSM and GA Nominations

President: Mark spoke to Kristen Schara about becoming President – she might consider it. Other possibilities are Pat Hurst, Rob Becker, Paula Silbey,

Kathy Atwell will be Treasurer, with Carma staying on as Assistant Treasurer.

Secretary: Lydia McCaw will be asked to be Secretary, and if she declines, Anna White-Hauck will be asked.

Christie Billeci, Anna White-Hauck or Kate White-Hauck may be asked to become trustees.

COSM

Mark said he would be willing to be nominated, but reiterated that he plans to be away more than in the past this coming year. Another possibility was to keep the position open until a new minister had some time to get familiar with our congregation. Kate White-Hauck, Anna White-Hauck, Tiffany James and Ellen Herrington were also mentioned as possibilities. Perhaps we could get someone from the RE community.

GA:

Kathy Eberlein, Lois Slade and Barbara Kidney have expressed interest. Karen Miller might be willing to attend remotely.

Annual Meeting and Budget

There was a brief discussion about Social Justice and other committee lines

Sanctuary Lighting

The lighting is scheduled to be upgraded from the day after Memorial day until June 11.

Communication to the congregation is essential. A Greg is willing to stay after when Bob does a sermon. Possibilities are April 30, May 7 (after the budget meeting) or May 21.

8th Principle Proposal

Donna Schlachman has a draft that discusses pros and cons. Article II of the UUA bylaws should also be discussed. Rev. Bob is willing to facilitate a discussion, perhaps on May 7.

Tom moved that the 8th principle be presented for adoption at the annual meeting. **I'm not sure who seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

Supervision of Admin

As of first of July we will need someone to supervise the staff, including Rita, Jane and Catherine.

Erin agreed to supervise, unless Kristen Schara is elected President and will do it.

Fundraising and Rentals

Several people were suggested for managing rentals. Coco Wilde is interested in fundraising. Erin Burton would be good at that. In any case, Lois agreed to assist.

Dogs in the Sanctuary

There were six off-leash dogs at the Yuke-in. One threw up on the carpet.

We need to update policy to include other events and rentals. The updated policy needs to be communicated to renters. Carma will take a dry run. Emotional support dogs are not included as service animals.

A sign will be posted at the entrance stating our policy.

Shirley Bernard Memorial

A Memorial (celebration of life) will be held on June 17th someone should represent the congregation. The memorial for Bobbie Katz will be May 8th at Jewish Congregation in Woodstock.

New Business

No new business was identified.

Unfinished Business

Barbara Kidney has not replied to our email regarding her and Andrew's out-of-covenant emails. Kathy can follow-up to see if there's a response.

Thank-you notes

No thank-you notes were identified.

Next meeting(s): May 18 10:00am – 1:00pm

Centering: Donn

Adjournment

On a motion by Donn, seconded by Joyce, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:57.