**St. John’s Vestry**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**September 1, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**In attendance:** Rev. Rob Stevens,Gerry Simpkins, Jeff Croteau, Chris Nettleton, Chuck Silva, Barry Heckler, Veronique Doherty, John Bolduc, Ally Dudas, Ellie Sanderson, Rebecca Hennessy, Kelly Boston Absent: Karen Barsanti, Randy Philbrick, Rev. Anne Williamson

**At 7:00 PM Chuck called meeting to order.**

**Reports:**

**1. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2021 meeting**

*Motion to approve report was made by Gerry and seconded by John.*  **Vote:** *All in favor.*

**2. Building update: (Barry/Rob/Gerry)**

* 7/22/21 groundbreaking was very successful - state and local reps came, beautiful weather and great coverage from the Portsmouth Herald
* Aug. 31 building committee report submitted by Barry - phase 2 of the Connector in progress
* Reggie is doing an excellent job managing and supervising the contractors
* $1 billion in construction dollars being spent in Portsmouth this year - the City is overwhelmed with construction and inspection — between the weather over the summer and delays in inspections, the project has suffered some delays — goal is to have Connector enclosed and weather tight by winter
* Scheduled to have the slab for Connector poured 9/24/21; then 4-6 weeks to frame Connector
* Budgeting has been aggressive and conservative and thus far no surprises
* Restoration of the Tebbetts House garage must proceed - this building has been declared historical because of its location in the historic district, because of this, St. John’s is obligated to restore it; at the moment the building has been shored up so it does not collapse.  The restoration is scheduled to proceed in the spring 2022, starting with estimates - to replace the driveway and hardscape is approximately $6500.
* The hope is to do a small bump-out on the side to extend the usable space; there is a loft that could also possibly used for storage.
* Currently the tentative plan would be to use the space for the new location of the St. John’s Resale shop (this was previously located in the basement, but the Portsmouth Fire Marshal has declared this unsafe)
* 119 bricks have been sold to date —  all are earmarked for the restoration of the Tebbetts garage — there are a lot more bricks available, so please spread the word!

**3. COVID Update and SJC Regathering: (Jeff)**

* Regathering has been successful - the outdoor service has been a huge success, as has the 8:00 a.m. in the Church
* Data is getting worse re: COVID - back to winter 2020/2021 rates, which makes it hard to anticipate where Church services will be come the cold weather — church services will continue outside until it is too cold to do so, when we go inside masks will be required
* Schools are in person which are probably a good barometer for what is going on with families and the local community — will continue to monitor and track
* Goal is to be safe and inclusive come the winter

**4. Financial Report: (Kelly)**

Please see attached

**5. Appeal Season: (Rob)**

* Financially in a strong place
* Major focus for this year’s appeal will be participation - goal: 300 parishioners — the pledge does not have to be a lot - it is the participation that counts not the amount
* creating engagement through participation
* 9/23/21 stewardship meeting with Anna Kay Vorsteg, John Tabor, and Chris Sieve to brainstorm ideas on how to communicate to the St. John’s community on the importance of participation — how to claim and demonstrate as to why people should financially support the St. John’s

**6. Clergy Update: (Rob)**

* Vestry did not meet in July and August
* St. John’s staff continues to do a really incredible job during these unprecedented times — planning is only possible about 2 weeks at a time, which is obviously a challenge with planning the upcoming Church year
* Olin working on many things, among them, the Church’s virtual presence and live streaming the services; putting cameras in the church to live stream services will be expensive ( about $40k) but will connect people in a way that has not been possible in the past
* Plans for a “Zoom Room” by hopefully November for any programs and organizations that could make use for Zoom meetings
* Sunday 9/19/21 a parish dinner 4:00 - 6:00.  Bob and Sue Nalewajk cooking the meal
* Parish retreat 9/24-26 at Merrowvista; a call on 9/16/21 with Matt Loper to review details of weekend — a way for the community to play together
* Nathan and Nicole and baby Francis are doing really great
* mid-October Nicole will preach - working on having a guest preacher once a month

**Closing prayer: Rob**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:18 p.m.**

**Next meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lizzie Bristow

Clerk (substitute)