

Parish Council Minutes  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Present: Rev. Judie, Rev. Mike, Rick Orlando, Renee Fraser, Angela Miller, Rick Morash, and Doug Gillett.

Regrets: Nicole Chenell, Bev Higgins, and Jo-Anne Rector.

Absent: Jo-anne Hanley and Glenn Lafosse.

Rev. Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

1) Rick Morash made the motion for the approval of the agenda, seconded by Rev. Judie.

2) Adoption of the minutes, dated April 14<sup>th</sup>, was made by Rick M., seconded by Angela.

3) Business arising from the minutes:

a) Again, it was decided to defer until next month for further discussion the role of the Finance Committee to do with the following:

“All expenditures, other than normal expenditures approved in the annual budget, in excess of \$ 1,000.00 will be sent to the Finance Committee for recommendation prior to approval by Parish Council.”

b) Rev. Mike raised the topic on how we would keep a record of furnace checks for oil leakage. Rick M. has kindly provided a calendar to be put up in the furnace room for this purpose.

4) Soup kitchen – No report.

5) Communications/Correspondence – No report.

6) Rector's Report – As circulated. Rev. Mike informed us of the favourable comments he received about the liturgy on Good Friday, which introduced the practice of Holy Communion. He congratulated Marilyn Hamlin, who was admitted as an associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine at a service at St. Andrew's on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Mike thanked Rev. Ron for organizing the April 2<sup>nd</sup> performance by the Acts Theatre Society. Rev. Judie, Marilyn H., and Rev. Mike attended the Back to Church Sunday workshop. Rev. Mike noted that some members of this spring's confirmation class came as a result of the Back to Church Sunday, which was held last September. Consensus of Parish Council members was reached to have the Back to Church Sunday again this fall. A decision was made not to order the invitations for this service. A Parish Council retreat is being planned for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

7) Wardens' Report – As circulated. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Property Committee held their meeting which Rick attended, and a church yard cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> as well as future plans this summer to re-drywall the former Men's choir room and stairwell. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Renee met with the Ways & Means Committee to make plans for the upcoming Italian Supper & Silent Auction. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Rick and Renee attended the Finance Committee

- 7) meeting to discuss sick leave and honorariums paid to substitutes as part of the Organist contract. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Renee met with Elections Canada Official, Annette Dempsey for key arrangements to the church hall for Elections Day as well as coffee/tea being provided for the poll station workers. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Wardens met with Rev. Mike to discuss the following: sale of St. Luke's property, a sidespersons' training workshop, revisions to the organist contract, future plans for the church wall hangings, and an addition of a member-at-large to Parish Council.
- 8) Treasurer's Report – As circulated. Linda S. noted that coin card givings were down from \$1284.80 in 2010 to \$778.00 in 2011. Rev. Mike explained that we had purchased envelopes to save on the purchase of coin cards, which cost more. A decision was made to purchase the coin cards for next year.
- 9) Ways & Means Committee - A meeting was held on April 27,<sup>th</sup> and plans are underway for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Italian Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction. There are many great items for the silent auction. The Committee had decided not to ask for donations for the supper and will be buying the food items. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Linda Strachan, Darlene Martell, and Joanne Hanley worked at the canteen for the Country Music show. The Committee would like to thank Linda Strachan for all her help as the canteen is organized by her, and we are forever grateful for all the help and guidance that she gives!
- Rev. Judie wants the members of the Ways & Means Committee to know that the members of Parish Council are there to help them whenever there is a fund-raiser.
- 10) Property Committee & Cemetery Report - Rick Orlando reported that plans are being made to mortar the opening left from the broken window at the back of the church, the window that was broken from the break-in in February. Other church windows, that are reachable, will also be mortared in. Over the summer months, plans will be to re-drywall the former men's choir room and the stairwell to meet the fire department's specifications. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a church yard cleanup.
- 11) Spiritual Development Report – Rev. Judie was pleased with the success of the St. Margaret's Bay Boys Honour Choir's performance at our church service on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a great turn out for the occasion and the singing was enjoyed by all in attendance. Rev. Judie stated that there are future plans to invite Gospel groups to perform at church services.
- 12) Sunday School – Rev. Judie informed that the Sunday School Teachers want to change the Sunday School Curriculum from the Veggie Tales to the Sparks Stories Bibles for older children. The students would learn the same Bible lesson as what would be in the Rector's sermon. The cost of the curriculum would be \$ 1,166.99 total. Doug Gillett made the motion to purchase the new curriculum for the amount of \$ 1,200.00, seconded by Linda Strachan.

- 13) Choir Report – Edith Steffens expressed delight at Tim Edwards’ flute performance for the Easter church service and his accompaniment with the choir during hymn signs. Edith expressed her joy at having the St. Margaret’s Bay Boys Honour Choir’s performance on May 1<sup>st</sup>. On Mother’s Day, Rev. Mike had suggested that all the men in the congregation join as a choir to sing an impromptu rendition of a Mother’s Day hymn. They did so well that they may be expected to repeat the exercise on a regular basis. The choir members are in the process of learning several new hymns from Common Praise, as well as one from Living Praise.
- 14) Pastoral Care Report – No report
- 15) St. Andrew’s Ladies Group – The annual yard sale on April 30<sup>th</sup> raised \$ 763.49. A sum of \$500 has already been paid to the church’s general fund, and an additional sum of \$ 1,000. will be paid to this fund. This will leave the Ladies Group with \$ 1,090.00 left over so they have plans to purchase a new Nativity Scene for \$ 300. The Oberammergau slide show presentation and supper has been cancelled for June as it was felt that it would be too complicated an undertaking with thousands of pictures to choose from. Instead, the group will go to a restaurant for their June get together. With respect to funeral reception fees, Linda asked for the provision of guidelines on what fees to charge.
- 16) Outreach Report – Renee reported that there were no future projects until the fall when we will have our annual Thanksgiving Sunday Food Drive and the Phoenix Christmas Wish List. Support for the local food bank is still ongoing and much appreciated.

New or Special Business:

- 17) Organist Contract – Copies of the draft of the Organist contract were circulated.
- Where Spiritual Development oversees the music, the members would arrange for substitutes and Parish Council will pay the substitutes.
  - There is provision of 2 weeks sick leave annually. While on sick leave, EI can be collected.
  - There is provision of 4 weeks vacation leave
- Rick Morash suggested that there should be a definition of what a week equates to, i.e. 1 day. Doug Gillett suggested that the duty of recruitment of new choir members should be added to contract under duties. Rev. Mike suggested that the Organist contract should be tabled at the June 9th meeting of Parish Council.
- 18) Sidespersons’ Training Workshop and new location for counting.
- Rick brought it to the attention of Council members that he was advised by Erica and Bev H. that there are mistakes being made on entries to the offering summary count. So copies of the “Offering Summary” were circulated to all Council members along with copies of an “Offering Check List for Sidespersons”, which Wendy Wells had put together at the request of Rick O. It was also noted that there are also incorrect entries being made when filling out

Sidespersons' Training Workshop and new location for counting.

the Vestry book. Also, the church bell is not being rung before church goes in. Linda S. stated that in the past an experienced Sidesperson would be assigned with new members. Rev. Judie informed that according to Canon 35, a husband and wife team must not count the offering together. The business in the Choir Room does not offer quiet for those Sidespersons doing the count and so a new location is needed. A decision was made that a Sidespersons' Training Workshop should be facilitated in the future.

19) Retreat on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Rick O. informed the members about the upcoming retreat and that all members of St. Andrew's are welcome to come out to this retreat. Some topics to be covered are as follows: list of all jobs, policies, procedures, and records of decisions; church communication process; church decision process; committee meeting schedules and back-ups; and improvement to filing system and record keeping. More topics will be added and the floor is open for everyone's input. This will be a brown bag lunch with coffee and tea to be provided. The retreat will run from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

## 20) Addition of a Member-at-Large

There were 13 Council members elected and 2 clergy members. There are 6 members-at-large. There is a need to fill the 3-year term for a member-at-large and plans will be to fill this term position.

## 21) Update from Constable Chuck Simms

Renee informed that Constable Simms reported that at present they have no suspects with respect to the church break-in back in February. He did say that they have 4 suspects related to the torching of the BLT Elementary School sign and 1 suspect, who confessed to a car break-in at the Recycling Depot in Timberlea on the same night as the church break-in. The shoe prints, that were taken in the snow behind the church near the broken window, do not match up with the shoe prints of the 4 suspects. The dusting for finger prints did not yield anything either. Constable Simms did ask us to let him know if we hear of any leads. He did mention that with time, suspects have been known, in the past, to confess to break-ins.

## 22) Archival Information – Deferred for next Parish Council meeting.

## 23) St. Luke's Property

Doug Gillett noted in the Wardens' Report about a proposed meeting to be arranged with Nassim Ghosn, the developer, that would include Doug, Rev. Mike, the Wardens, and Gordon

Hamlin. He asked why he was not informed about these plans for the group to meet as a whole with the developer. Rev. Mike apologized for not having first phoned Doug about this proposed meeting with the developer and stated that if Doug had not wanted this meeting, then it would not take place. Doug recapsulated his past efforts in networking with HRM officials and realtors. He informed that Kevin Gray advised him that Halifax Water is doing a 2-year study of the Waste Water System in this district. Doug had spoken by phone with Ms. MacKenzie Stonehouse about rezoning the property to R1. However, Doug explained that there is a process in doing this that involves publication of meetings, making application to HRM, and hiring surveyors/engineers to look at subdividing property into lots – all of which can cost anywhere from \$ 300 to \$1,500. In addition, Doug had spoken with Reg Rankin at the Remembrance Day Service about the property and what development plans Mr. Ghosn's architect has drawn up for the property. Reg Rankin suggested that Mr. Ghosn's architect should take these plans to HRM. Doug wants to know the outcome from the water study and suggested that to rezone to R4 would give us more money. Rick Morash suggested that the property be a green space. Doug informed that he already had explored this route through HRM.

24) Adjournment of meeting was made by Rick Morash at 9:35 p.m.