**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for February 28, 2017**

***Present:***

Mary Ann Millar, Chair April Couzens Lynne Skanes-Bannon

John Dale, Secretary John Coleman Murray Gamble

Mike Stredwick Anne Taylor Charlotte Cromarty

Terry McCoy Lesley Burland-Prong MaryLynn Forrest

Connie McCoy Vivian Harris John Ryrie

Reta Risto Cheryl Fox Katherine MacLean

Jack Nahrgang Catherine Carlson Jim Fox

John Shaw

***Regrets***: Nathaniel Couzens, Nelson Cuthbert, Valerie Cuthbert.

***Absent:*** Matt Brown

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.28 p.m., by Mary Ann Millar. **Devotions:** MaryLynn Forrest; The Chair welcomed new members of Parish Council.

**2. Current Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Charlotte Cromarty noted that, in Upcoming Events, the date for the next PC meeting should be amended to March 28th 2017. Lynne Skannes-Bannon added that the date for the Church Tea was May 24th 2017. **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the February 28th, 2017 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**3. Reading and Acceptance of the January 24th, 2017 Minutes**: Mary Ann Millar indicated that, in item 5e (Atmosphere), “Input to the Dragonflyer will henceforth be looked after by the office, and material for the Huron Church News will be forwarded by Catherine Carlson” should be amended to “The church office will henceforth look after bookings for church facilities, while Mark Mennell and Catherine Carlson will handle input to the Dragonflyer and material to be forwarded to the Huron Church News.” **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the January 24th., 2017 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**a) Four Kitchener Churches – Lenten Series of Worship Services**. Mary Ann Millar reported that the format of a series of Lenten services hosted by all four Kitchener churches has been agreed upon. These are listed here under item 10.

**b) Vestry Comments**. John Ryrie said that the unapproved minutes for the January 2017 Vestry have been posted beside the door to the church office. Jim Fox added that he felt that this year’s Vestry was well run and April Couzens commented that it was very useful to have had the committee reports pre-printed as an attachment to the agenda. It was felt that this last really speeded proceedings at Vestry.

**c) Bishop Linda’s suggested Motion (discussed at Vestry) on the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. Mary Ann Millar informed PC that, at the recent meeting of the Waterloo Deanery, it had been agreed that a Blanket Exercise to address the above motion would be held at St. James, Hespeler, on May 3rd.

**5. Old Business.**

**a) Livestream Update**. No volunteers have come forward to help Reta. Mary Ann Millar repeated that it was our intention to recruit a team of 4 or 5 parishioners to help Reta with operation of the Livestream equipment.

**b) Curb Side Waste**. The new arrangements for waste collection (see last month’s minutes) will begin on March 6th. The church and the rectory count as separate residences. Green bins for paper towels have been placed in all bathrooms; users are **strongly** urged to use **one towel only**. Outside groups using church facilities will be warned that they have to take all their waste home; MaryLynn Forrest pointed out that typed instructions to this effect for distribution to outside users would be useful.

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

The Chair asked spokespersons from the different committees to briefly summarize their activities and meeting schedules for the benefit of new PC members.

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented a brief financial report for January and February 2017. Parishioner donations for these two months were approximately $34,000, largely as budgeted. A number of parishioners have, as requested, increased their monthly pre-authorized donations.

**Motion** to accept the report for January and February 2017 as presented: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto said that she and Susan Butt were co-chairs of the Outreach committee; there are approximately 8 members. Meetings are held bi-monthly, as necessary; the next is March 30th. Typical activities of this busy committee include a June fundraiser for Innisfree House in memory of Mary Shaw, and the provision of potatoes and treats for St. John’s Kitchen. Arrangements for Camp Little Dragon are also the responsibility of the committee. Reta also reported that the bowls she collected had gone to Mary’s Place, while the mugs had gone to St. John’s Kitchen. 214 people attended the Spaghetti supper. Katherine MacLean said that it would be useful to have the dates of Outreach activities and meetings on the church website.

**c) Property.** Murray Gamble reported that this committee of 8-10 people is, as its name suggests, responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church, rectory and grounds (the latter with the aid of the Garden Guild and grass-cutters). Meetings occurred every 6-8 weeks, as necessary. The main committee projects for this year are the refurbishment of the rectory and existing memorial/sign, and the provision of a new sign. Murray asked Mike Stredwick to telephone the Regional Waste Management Authority to confirm that we do require on-going garbage collection at the church and rectory. Mike agreed to do so.

**d) Worship.** MaryLynn Forrest said that this committee meets bimonthly on the third Tuesday of the month; it includes representation from such bodies as the Altar Guild and Servers. Easter arrangements will be discussed at the next meeting. Currently it is the aim of the committee to keep the form and timetable of worship as familiar as possible (sometimes difficult with interim clergy). Change will be inevitable with the advent of a new minister, and a succession of changes is undesirable. It was confirmed that there will be three services next Easter Sunday at 7.15 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**e) Atmosphere**. Catherine Carlson said that she was delighted to have taken over the direction of this committee, and that the next meeting is next Tuesday; after this, meetings will be bi-monthly. Existing and new members are both welcome. A car rally is planned for May, and a Food Truck event will be held on May 27th (Lesley Burland-Prong pointed out that the youth group, who undertook a number of duties at the last Food Truck event, will be unavailable on that date). A picnic at Mannheim with other Kitchener churches is planned for June (Catherine was reminded that these events need to be entered in the office calendar, and that, regarding the picnic, duties need to be divided between the clergy attending, the altar guild needs to be alerted, and a sound system must be provided).

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. Jim Fox reported that this committee meets every two months, normally on a Saturday. The responsibility of the committee is to implement the financial and organizational undertakings of the RENEW 5-year plan. They also periodically create displays in the narthex which highlight the activities of various church groups (such as the Garden Guild and the Sunday School).

**g) Selection Committee**. John Ryrie said that the parish profile was finished in December and the parish survey summarized in January. Both are now in the hands of the diocese. Bishop Linda has asked to meet with members of the selection committee on March 8th.

**7. New Business.**

**a**) Mike Stredwick reported that the Pancake Supper (held earlier in the evening ofFebruary 28th) realized $1069.25 (expenses will have to be deducted). Anne Taylor clarified that these proceeds are directed to Outreach for the support our foster children.

**b)** Anne Taylor said that the Youth Group had requested that, when, as part of the Safe Church initiative, ‘their’ room is swapped with the nursery, the existing wall paintings created by participants in successive Little Dragon Camps should be left intact on the wall of the new nursery.

**c)** Lesley Burland-Prong emphasized that we need to pay attention to the accuracy of the information carried on the church website, since this is the information vehicle of choice for the young people that we wish to attract. Jack Nahrgang added that it was not simply an issue of ensuring that the times of events were accurate, but also that events were mentioned at all on the website. Anne Taylor indicated that it was important that Valerie O’Reilly be directed to check every week that service times had not changed for the upcoming weekend. Jim Fox asked where the responsibility for communications with parishioners lay, and Mary Ann Millar explained that Valerie O’Reilly had assumed responsibility for issuing any eblast that a church member requests, but that it is the responsibility of the organizer(s) of any event to inform Valerie in a timely manner. She added that our website arrangements were fairly archaic, cost being the barrier to their updating. Katherine MacLean asked that there should be discussion of church communications at the next PC meeting, and added that she and Jack Nahrgang would be happy to assume the responsibility for filtering information to be posted on the website, and for the provision of templates.

**d)** Mary Ann Millar provided a precis of the recent Waterloo Deanery meeting held at St. Georges, as below.

Waterloo Deanery Meeting – February 21, 2015

* Anglican Foundation – grants ($10,000) are available to parishes for repairs and renovation
* Refugee Report – 1 year of commitment coming to an end; one man is now a bus driver, others buying vehicles, $8000 spent on dental work. Another sponsor is needed before another family is received
* Monica Place – Volunteer Tea “Hats Off” is planned. Mother’s Day donation envelopes to be distributed, Graduation Gala for the Grads June 28th. Visitors welcome. Next year Monica Place will celebrate 50 Years of Service in our community.
* “Blanket Exercise” planned for May 3rd at St. James/Hespeler as a Deanery Event
* Any parish events– please send info to Archdeacon Greg Jenkins for the Deanery website
* Trinity/Galt – Quilt Fundraiser – Cheryl Fox is our contact person.

Cheryl added that a $700 quilt had been purchased for auction. It will circulate around the churches of the Deanery and raffle tickets for it will be purchased by parishioners. Proceeds will support Monica House.

**8)** **Correspondence.** Mary Ann Millar reported that Paul Rathbone, the diocesan Secretary/Treasurer, had written to St. George’s thanking us for paying our apportionment, and that a thank-you card had been received from Mary Shaw’s sister thanking all those who helped at the funeral.

**9) Other**. It was pointed out that an article and photographs concerning St. George’s had been forwarded to the Huron Church News by Catherine Carlson and that it was published in the latest issue.

**10. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

**March 3rd.** World Day of Prayer; Highland Baptist Church, Kitchener.

**March 6th**. Movie, The Shack.

**March 7th**. Atmosphere Committee Meeting.

**March 8th**. Lenten Series of Services, Spirit of Invitation, starts.

**March 19th.** St. Patrick’s Day Stew.

**March 30th.** Scout Fundraiser.

**April 13th**. Maundy Thursday Service—Reta Risto and Lynne Skanes-Bannon are organizing a potluck before the service.

**April 23rd.** St. George’s Day. Bishop Bob’s visit; 1 service at 10.00 a.m./ Ploughman’s Lunch/ Baptism/ Br. Mark’s Vow Renewal.

**April 29th.** Community Clothes Closet.

**May 2nd**. 7.00 p.m. Waterloo Deanery Meeting at All Saints’, Waterloo.

**May 3rd**. Blanket exercise in association with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Call to Action at St. James, Hespeler.

**May 13th**. Judy Paulsen workshop (postponed from earlier), at St. George’s, 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (Bring your own lunch).

**May 24th**. Church Tea.

**May 27th**. Food Truck event at St. George’s.

**June 11th**. Joint picnic for Kitchener churches.

**Spirit of Invitation: A Lenten Series of Services Sponsored by the 4 Kitchener Churches**. (led by the 4 churches in turn; Canon Christopher Pratt will officiate for St. George’s).

**Mar 8th** – St. John’s 5.00 p.m. potluck.

**Mar 15th** – Holy Trinity

**Mar 22nd** – St. George’s

**Mar 29th** – St. Andrew’s Memorial

**April 5th** – St. John’s

**April 12th** – Holy Trinity potluck (5.00 p.m.)

**11. Next PC Meeting**. March 28th, 2017. Chair, Charlotte Cromarty; Minutes, John Dale; Devotions, Valerie Cuthbert; Refreshments, Lesley Burland-Prong.

**12. Adjournment.** Proposed 8.45 p.m. by Mike Stredwick. **Carried.**