

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2023
Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice-President), David Das (Clerk), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), John Spruill (member-at-large)

Excused: Jane Pentheny (member-at-large)

Guests: Angela Foss, Mary Kay Weisenberger, Levesque, Cindy Greathouse

6:35: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

Claire read the Mission Statement.

Linda read a section from the “Covenant for Auburn UU Board of Directors” from the Board Policy Manual.

Anne lit the chalice; she called on all of us to work together to create and strengthen community.

Brief sharing by Board members.

President’s Report:

- Sewer update:
 - Specific issue – cracked pipe. Broader neighborhood issues. Claudia, our church administrator, went above and beyond in dealing with logistical issues.
- DIC update:
 - DIC leadership has reached out to the Board suggesting a meeting to get a sense of how things are going. Board will suggest: August 9 or August 23 as possible meeting dates.
- Worship Tech update:

- Pam Weeks has a lot on her plate during services. Suggestion that tech equipment be moved to Choir Director room enabling Cynthia Grimm to be onsite. Logistical issues do need to be worked out.
- Impact of signs and cameras:
 - Seems to be preventing bad behavior. No issues this past Sunday (July 30)
- July Finance Committee update:
 - Anne informed the committee of the significant increase in utility usage; impact on 2023-24 budget.
- Conversation with Erica Baron, our UUA congregational representative.
 - Erica very positive and upbeat regarding direction of congregational life and the role of the Board in facilitating that direction.

Board Communications:

- District Leadership Retreat (October 14):
 - David will inform Board about registration details

Consent Agenda:

- July 19, 2023 Minutes (with understanding that CMP usage information needs to be corrected)

Motion to approve: Claire

Second: John

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

No comments

Minister Search Update:

- Search Committee conducted a Zoom interview with a candidate on Sunday
 - Positive feelings on both sides
 - Erica Baron, our UUA congregational representative, was supportive
 - Candidate has interim minister skills

- Good post interview conversations between Anne and candidate
- Motion by Anne to make an offer of the contract minister position to the candidate; second by David.
 - Board unanimous.
- Linda will send the candidate a draft contract as basis for negotiation.

Town Hall Planning:

- Discussion of logistics for Sunday's Town Hall
- Reviewed the information sheet

Utility Usage Update

- Levesque provided updated CMP information
 - KW has increased. January-July 2022: average monthly kw use was **1035**. January-July 2023: average monthly kw use was **1278**.
 - Cost per kw has increased. 2022: **21-22 cents** per kw; 2023: **26-28 cents** per kw.
- Still waiting on updated Unitil and Auburn Water and Sewer information

Rental Contract Discussion

- Utility discussion raised questions of how to proceed with rental contract with the DIC
 - How will increased utility costs be reflected in the contract?
 - When will we have relevant data?
 - Probably not until September 15
- Course of action
 - Create a temporary contract based on a flat fee with understanding that formal contract will be agreed upon once utility costs are finalized
 - Discussion of any financial agreement with DIC must be part of budget review at October congregational meeting.
 - Tentative schedule
 - October 1: Town Hall on contract with DIC; congregational input on terms.
 - October 15: Congregational Meeting
 - Congregation approves contract as part of broader budget discussion.

Executive Session:

8:30 Linda moved that we enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Second by David. Unanimous.

8:47 Board came out of Executive Session

8:48 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)