

9/14/15

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH
WEST SIMSBURY, CT**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MEETING DATE: 9/14/15**

On September 14, 2015, a regular meeting of the Parish Council was convened at 7:00PM in the Parish Library.

In attendance were the following members: Tom Clarke, Anne Connelly, Mike Coutinho, Amy Daniels, Laura Doyle, Judy McDonald, John McManus, Jim Peters, Tom Tanski, Nancy Taylor, Kate Stewart, and Fr. Michael Whyte. Eric Davis and Bill Tagliatela were absent.

At the request of Jim Peters, Fr. Michael began the meeting with an opening prayer.

Jim Peters asked that the Minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting be accepted. A Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Meeting Minutes.

NEW OFFICERS

The new officers of the Parish Council were introduced.

President: Jim Peters

Vice President: Mike Coutinho

Secretary: Kate Stewart

PARISH COUNCIL NEW MEMBER PICTURES AND POSTER

Tom Clarke took photographs of new members so that the Parish Council section of the Parish Web Site and the Parish Council poster can be updated. The purpose of these communication tools is to raise awareness of the Parish Council and to identify Parish Council members who can be approached if a parishioner needs to reach out, ask questions, offer suggestions, etc.

PARISH COUNCIL DIRECTORY

The contact information and terms of Parish Council members were reviewed by Council members. Any changes need to be submitted to Jim Peters by September 30, 2015.

PARISH WELCOME BACK PICNIC

The picnic scheduled for September 19 is sponsored by the Men and Women's Club Ministries and is supported by most other Parish ministries. Judy McDonald created a basket for the tea cup auction with a food, wine, and cooking theme with contributions from Parish Council members. Mike Coutinho is organizing an obstacle course for entertainment. Parish Council members will help Mike with this event. Parish Council members will wear name tags at this event as well as all other events so that parishioners will get to know and feel comfortable approaching members.

PARISH DIRECTORY STATUS

Review of the Parish Directory proofs is underway. The proofs will be returned to Life Touch next week. Life Touch will then turn it around in about three weeks. Directories should be available in October. The distribution of directories will need to be arranged. All families whose photographs appear in the Directory will receive a free copy.

PARISH TRIP

Tom Clarke conducted a survey soliciting interest for a Parish trip to The Holy Land, Fatima, or Northern Italy. Responses revealed that most preferred The Holy Land. Via AAA, Insight Vacations is the agency through which Tom is working. The target cost is \$4,000 per person with 25 participants; however any participants beyond 25 will decrease the cost. Promotions will occur late October/early November.

Insight Vacations will provide a Power Point, flyers, and a representative to present to a forum of those interested.

The trip will occur late September of 2016. Guides will consist of guides through Insight Vacations and “Step-On Guides” who are experts of the feature.

PARKING LOT EXPANSION AND RENOVATION UPDATE

Fr. Michael reported that the parking lot is complete.

In late September, a letter will announce the Grand Annual Collection. It will be made clear that this collection will be sunsetted so that parishioners will know it’s coming to an end. The savings need to be replenished; \$150,000 is the goal. The Grand Annual will occur mid-September to December so as not to compete with the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal.

It was decided to not expand the back parking lot as it would be an additional \$140,000.

Fr. Michael is renegotiating and looking for new artists for the stenciling of the Beatitudes on the wall above the Sanctuary.

Railings for the approaches to the Altar are being designed to meet code and also be unobtrusive. The railings are being reconfigured to fit within the budget.

The memorializations for the individual Stations of the Cross, which cost \$3,000, are fulfilled. Donations for the Collective Way of the Cross continue to be available. Donations for the Collective Way of the Cross can be in any denomination. The stations will be ordered by October 1 and will be installed by Advent.

Moulding will be installed above the doors to create delineation between the walls and ceiling. This will aid in upkeep as the walls need to be painted every five to seven years, and the ceiling needs to be painted about every twenty years. Linen white will be painted above the moulding, and a light sand color will be painted below the moulding.

A glass wall will be installed behind the Mary statue costing \$7,000-8,000. It is anticipated that this cost will be covered by a donation.

The budget for altar furniture is \$25,000. A parishioner who is exceptionally skilled with millwork will fashion much of the altar furniture out of mahogany and marble. He will build a new altar, altar servers’ bench, ambo with adjustable levels, and tabernacle altar. Due to the complexity and requirements of the presider’s chair, one will be ordered at the cost of about \$7,000.

The renovation cost remained within budget.

REBUILT UPDATE

Jim Peters distributed a summarized version of Rebuilt. He reported that the Rebuilt Steering Committee met twice to discuss ideas the Parish could implement from Rebuilt. After Parish Council members submit two or three focus areas to Jim Peters, the steering committee will meet again to select projects to adopt.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Stewart
Parish Council Secretary