

First Parish Cambridge Governing Board Minutes
July 16th, 2024 at 7:00 PM
(Virtual)

Present:

Tod Hibard Chair	Carol Lewis
Julie Duncan, Vice Chair	Lindsay Lucke, Member at Large
Cade Murray, Past Board Chair	Jane Stabile, Treasurer
Patrick Sullivan, Member at Large	Grace Hall, Governance Advisory Committee
Rich Lawson, Clerk	

Regrets: Nina Lytton, Rev. Rob

Chalice Lighting & Check in – Rich Lawson

The reading was a very brief one from Seneca: *"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."*

The discussion prompt was: We are at the beginning of a new church year. Several of us have different roles than last year. We have a new set of objectives we're about to address.

- What do you hope to bring to the Board and/or the congregation this year?
- Do you need anything to help you realize that ambition?.

Consent Agenda – Tod

There was a brief discussion about the rationale for the updates to the safe congregation policy: A couple of young children at the beginning of the year had some behavior issues. The issues were resolved smoothly, but provided learning about ways to bolster the policy.

The minutes were corrected to read "Sacred Places" not "Safer Places"

With that correction there was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Patrick Sullivan. This was seconded by Jane Stabile. There was unanimous approval.

Board vote to adopt 2024-25 Board Priorities

Tod Hibbard reviewed the 4 priority areas that had been discussed at the final board meeting of the previous church year:

- Building Community - Growing membership and deepening connections
- Becoming more inclusive
- Continuing to build RE Program
- Organizational and leadership development - integrating newer people

He now proposed this to the Board for the 2024-2025 church year.

Lindsay Lucke moved to approve these priorities. This motion was seconded by Patrick Sullivan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board vote to approve Finance and Development Chair

Tod Hibbard also provided background on the request to approve Cade Murray as the chair of the Finance and Development Committee. Approval of this position means that Cade would be an authorized signatory for the endowment, along with Don Tucker and Tod Hibbard.

Jane Stabile made a motion to approve Cade Murray as chair of the Finance and Development Committee. Patrick Sullivan seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval.

Building Update

Carol Lewis had been on vacation until the day of this meeting, but was able to provide a thorough oral report on the chimney repairs. The scaffolding is now up. Demolition on the existing chimney started. An environmental firm is involved in case there is asbestos in the liner.

Other work is planned to begin next week. FPC has made the first payment for work. Carol requested and received \$300k from the Line of Credit for the project.

Report on Sunday Social Hour Team

Tod Hibbard reported on this new team to help with the weekly logistics for social hour that had previously been conducted by Carol Lewis and John Lewis every week.

About 12 people have responded to a request to provide support. They will be asked to help approximately one Sunday per month. John Lewis has agreed to organize the group and to provide a list of responsibilities. Carol Lewis will continue to order the food in advance. The Social Hour Team members for the week will get the food out of the fridge just before the end of service and will refresh it as needed. Everything went smoothly while Carol was away; Roland handled the details.

Matters arising

Carol Lewis noted that the air Conditioning required \$2,200 for repairs. This was foreshadowed at the Annual Meeting. It is now working, but there are still questions about why it was leaking into the Y2Y space.

Jane Stabile asked about progress with hiring the new part-time minister.

Carol Lewis indicated that FPC has made an offer. It was accepted conditionally. The candidate needs to have special dispensation from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee because they are not at a point where they can receive fellowship. They need a letter supporting this from the MFC. We have been assured that this is just a formality. By end of July this should be sorted out.

The meeting was adjourned before 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Rich Lawson, Clerk
Approved by the Board on 20 August 2024

Note: Chalice lighting/check-in monthly rotation for 2024-2025

*July: Rich, August: Julie, September: Patrick, October: Nina, November: Jane, December: Lindsay,
January: Julie, February: Rich, March: Patrick, April: Nina, May: Jane, June: Lindsay. (Cade is a
substitute as needed*