

St Joseph Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 in the Parish Center
2. The opening prayer was provided by Father Mike
3. Roll Call – Absent were Elaine LaPierre, Kathleen Maloney, Francis Spina, Andy Wells, Mike Wheeler and John Arasimowicz
4. Minutes from November 16, 2014 were approved
5. Religious Education –Betty Kirby
132 students are currently enrolled
The Christmas pageant was a success
The children will start doing the readings at the 9:00 mass beginning Feb 1
First Penance will take place on Feb 7 (Sat morning)
Commitment Sunday will be on Feb 8
There is a good commitment from parents and improved communication between parents and CCD leaders.
6. Activity Updates
 - a. Pastoral Ministry – Pat Momnie
Communion calls continue
Rosary and communion at Adult Day Care on Tuesday 21st and Berkshire Town on Wed
130 Santas were shared among the elderly, the Santas came from a parishioner who passed away and left them to the church; a Blessing from the Pope was also given to the elderly
May 17 will be a Healing mass with Jan27 at 10:00 in the North Chapel being an organizational meeting, all are welcome
6 people are currently in the RCIA program
 - b. St. Anne's - Peggy Dunlop
Celebration for Christmas was nice but not well attended
Resume meetings in April
Feast of St Anne there will be a bus trip July 25-27 to Canada call 443-3217 Barbara Dalo for information. Passports or passport cards are a must
 - c. Maintenance Committee – Jack Laviolette
Thank you to all volunteers and there were many new people joining in
Jack submitted a list of potential maintenance task, which is included in this report as Appendix A.

Requests – remove additional pew in choir area – need more room for choir
Behind the pillars take the kneelers out so people can get in easier Jack will bring in formal description next meeting

d. Convent Demolition – Ray Costello

A decision needs to be made and a reason for doing it needs to be identified

This will be a year and a half process – it was attempted 5 to 6 years ago but the delay was going to cause a delay in the building of the Parish Center

Do we want to spend \$150,000 to tear it down? Is it more important than other items? Also need to revisit the cost to see if this is still a valid estimate.

What are the liabilities presented by the structure today?

Do we want to tear it down? Alternative usage was examined but the state altered the building codes making changes cost prohibitive, so it was abandoned

What about salvage materials?

It is in a historic district but the building itself not been declared historic

Blocks a lot of footprint of the street and creates a security concern.

If a developer wanted to upgrade to usage then parking becomes an issue and the property the convent is on would need to be removed from the property of the church

More diligence to looking at tearing it down and possibly raising money by putting items on eBay.

What about St Joseph High School and what is going to happen there; how might this impact our options with the convent building?

Small sub-committee to look into convent was proposed to come in with a formal recommendation to determine the cost – by vote a committee will be formed with Ray as chair; he will select members that can participate in the trade off process – recommendation in under 30 days

A straw vote was taken - should the convent come down – large amount thought it should

We need to prioritize what needs to be done first based on Jack's list better plan might be a master plan for the church – Jack is identifying and prioritizing already
By the next meeting more information will be available

e. Food Pantry

Numbers have been down in past two weeks – just over 100

Grant for new freezer from Western Mass food bank

Thank you to parish and others who contribute, we had 150 turkeys

7. Pastor's Report

Brady Street made and sold bookmarks donated the money to charity and food pantry

No change in status of churches

An opera company is looking at St Mary's

Bishop's quarters in the rectory are taking shape

Friday night after Easter – play on Sister Faustina in the church April 10

Sister Colette will hold a retreat during Lent which will be open to the church

Deficit mentioned in the Christmas letter we need to keep a watch on this it is our church and our responsibility

8. Next Meeting Feb 15, 2015

Bill Jennings wants more outreach to people and wants to get to know them more

Knights of Columbus – mass for the unborn after 11:30 mass next week

9. Closing Prayer – Offered by Deacon Pat

Appendix A – Maintenance item list

St. Joseph Church Maintenance Items

DRAFT

Revised 1-18-15

Maintenance Committee

Jack Laviolette

Pg 1 of 1

Church:

C - Security cameras to cover all buildings & grounds (To be completed in the summer)

M - Sand and paint rails outside on North and South side of Church

C - Inside paint flaking, needs restoration

O - Roof, missing slate tiles

TBD - Masonry walls, point joints (Set up an ongoing repointing plan and schedule)

O - Inside Church walls seal cracks, back and front

C - Outside trim, replace rotten wood, caulk, prime & paint

M - Repair sticking South East Door

TBD – Evaluate solution for clanging heating pipes

TBD - Clean and lower fans

TBD - Alarm code

M - Remove one pew for the choir

TBD - Evaluate removing short kneelers behind columns, develop sketch for review

Church Grounds:

TBD - Iron Fence, in front of Church, temporary repairs / replacement

O - Trees and dying branches, check where trimming is needed

TBD - Sidewalks, several sections need to be replaced

M - Add wheelchair ramp from driveway to Church

M - Caulk / Grout between sidewalks and church walls

M - Bulkhead to cellar, weld chain

C - Fuel tank removal

M - Drainage structures, check if cleaning is needed

M - Clean sump and replace sump pump in basement

TBD - Remove storage container

Rectory:

M - Check pillar by the back porch of the rectory, appears loose

M - Fix hole on driveway side that had a bee's nest

TBD - Paint trim

Garage:

M - Organize back area

Convent:

M - Check entry steps front & back, make secure

C - Demolition of the convent (Committee to report to the Parish Council with recommendations)

Parish Center:

M - Signage in bathrooms, indicating "Food Handlers Must Wash Hands"

Parking Lot:

M - Replace parking lot bumpers

M - Black top settled areas

TBD - Replace North East Gate with a wider gate similar to the pipe gate on North St.

BO = by Others, C = Capital Funding, M = Maintenance Item, O = Observe, TBD = To Be Determined