

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of August 13, 2013

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Ron Massimino, Tom Manning , Jonathan Van Dine, Janusz Herasimowicz, and Patti Cineia.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7: 05 p.m.

1. Minutes of April's meeting were reviewed and accepted.
2. **Faith Formation:** 2 new catechists for the children's program. Needed is a means of projecting DVD material for the adult program either in the Library or Hall. A DVD would need to be obtained to work with the projector to transmit video.
3. **Safe Environments:** The new catechists will be completing all necessary paperwork for the OSE. There are two *Call to Protect* workshops to be held within the Vernon deanery: Sept 7th at St. Edward's and Sept 8th at St. Mary's. An announcement will be placed into the bulletin. This announcement also will satisfy a diocesan requirement to either host a workshop annually, or place notification of a workshop into the parish bulletin.
3. **Finance:** The Annual Finance Report for the fiscal year ending June 30th will be submitted to the Diocese by August 23rd. Some parishioners have expressed concern about the frequency of second collections, which appears to have been clustered, during the late spring/early summer. The schedule of second collections will be reviewed. Of note, this schedule is set by the Chancery, not the parish.
4. **Property Management:** The front wooden deck of the Parish Center requires attention with many areas worn and dry. Recommended is to utilize the left over cans of oil based paint used previously to coat the church basement floor. The goal is to coat the wood, and add protection. Ron offered to do the work. Repairs to cracks in the asphalt of the parking areas have been initiated; however, the company hired has not completed the work. The company will be contacted for follow up. No money has been exchanged. During the heavy rains in June, with record accumulating rainfall, both basement areas of the Church and Rectory flooded. After assessment, a clogged pipe in the septic holding tank was suspected of causing the backflow of water into both church basement toilets. Skips Septic Company removed the obstruction and pumped out the water in the holding tanks. These tanks were pumped previously in February. Drainage pipes in front of the Rectory, as well as in the Rectory garage were obstructed. M & M Oil Company worked on resolving. There is a long term history of rectory basement flooding during heavy rains. Water appears to intrude from an exterior wall along the foundation. Means of remediation will need addressing. Mike Harney will be contacted to provide a final report. M & M Oil Company changed out the rectory boiler, which was outdated. A new, energy efficient boiler was installed. Connections still are not completed. Tom will contact the company for resolution. The flat roof sections of the rectory have been replaced as scheduled. The parish financed this project with no loans incurred. Options for lowering heating costs were reviewed, including purchasing oil at a more competitive price.
5. **Evangelization:** It is a main concern for the parish to be open and welcoming to new parishioners. A means of attraction is to create awareness of parish activities via the mailing of postcards. Postcards would be mailed to the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Andover and Hebron, all within the designated boundaries of the parish. This would target approximately 3,000 households. Mailings would occur three times per year. Tom is in dialogue with the post office with the goal of a first mailing at the beginning of the new school year.
6. **Bingo:** A new Weber, 3 burner grill was purchased. Always under consideration is to improve attendance and satisfaction of participants. Means of providing transportation to older adults, especially during the colder dark winter months was discussed. This Council expresses gratitude to the Bingo volunteers for the constant work and hospitality they provide.
7. **Annual Catholic Appeal:** There are two goals: financial and parish participation. The parish is just \$35 shy of reaching the goal established by the Diocese of \$10,217. It is hoped that this will be reached by the end of August. About 30 % of families donated to the ACA. It is hoped that those families who did not participate would provide even a small donation. Updates are posted on the parish website.
8. **Parish life:** A vibrant parish atmosphere is a necessary constancy. A consideration is to include a monthly Children's Mass during the 10 am Mass. The homily could be oriented to children. Mass times were reviewed. Membership to this Council was reviewed and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting - Tuesday, September 10th

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Cineia