

CTK Parish Council Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021

Present: Fr. Joe, Louise Young, Kevin Hogan, Mike Rafferty, Ron Paine (Virtual), Dorothy Paine, John Smith, Bill Thomas, Richard Torrenti, Sharon Torrenti, Bill Clinton, Lauren Girasoli

1. Opening Prayer

2. Father Joe: Pandemic Update and Protocols

The Governor is loosening CT mandates on gatherings in person. You still need to maintain 6 feet social distancing and all still need to wear masks.

We have 87 individual seats

Depending on the number of family groups that come, there can be more than that

Good Friday—no individual reverencing of the cross

No processions

We won't ask everyone to come out for the blessing of the fire at the vigil mass

We're not doing any confirmations or receptions in the church for RCIA.

We may have two candidates next year, but no one is ready.

The concern is the numbers over the weekend.

People who don't go to church on a regular basis will show up in droves.

Can we open classrooms for overflow? We would need additional monitors.

We can do overflow in the hall.

Starting Friday [March 19], age 45 and up and on April 5, people who are 16 can get the shot.

3. Ron Paine: Update on Infrastructure

Need a quote for the next phase of HVAC (Variable speed drives to cut the electrical usage). He will put in a request to the diocese and get additional quotes as needed.

The Men's Club is doing some work with planting. The Men's Club was there on Saturday morning.

Kevin O'Sullivan dug up some of the ground where they want to do some planting. He leveled the ground and took some stumps out. The plantings will provide a little more privacy for the backyard of the rectory.

They've been filling in a foundation of an old ice house with debris.

The goal is to do the plantings very soon.

What is the health of our trees?

A fund was left a number of years ago and some has been used for the care of the trees. We still have the funds to do this other work around the rectory. The Men's Club is working to level some flat stones and put in sand and stone dust to solidify the stones. Bob Brinkerhoff, president of the Men's Club, is overseeing.

4. Tentative Council Vote Pastoral Council Constitution and Bylaws

Mike Rafferty moves to re-institute the bylaws of the Constitution and accept this constitution.

Lauren Girasoli seconds.

It passes.

How are we going to get there—in terms of the elections, etc.

Mike Rafferty proposes to put together a sub-committee (Mike, Father Joe, Kevin, and John will be part of the sub-committee)

Schedule special meeting after Easter: Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m.

5. Harvest Fun Day

Hoping that we will have it this year

The Congregational Church is on hold for their sale, but it would be early in July

We have the luxury of being able to wait to decide, but we're hoping we can have it at the regular time.

The dates at September 17-19

Dorothy has the banner reserved

Hopefully we can go forward and there will be a blurb in the bulletin to ask people to start thinking about it and find a co-chair. Last time was crazy for Dorothy to do it on her own.

6. New Business-Re: council member photos and updates to social media platforms

Do we update it now so we're current and then change it after the election.

Take a selfie and then send them to Ellen?

It would look more professional if Ellen can come to our next meeting and take everyone's picture.

7. New Idea: Bill Clinton has an idea for a haunted trail. Old Saybrook used to do one. He did one in East Lyme where it was donation only and still made a profit.

Dorothy brings up the question if it is appropriate for a church to sponsor.

Bill brings up some ideas that are not based on gore (a dark tent for sensory deprivation)

Can do a version for kids and a version for adults.

We have to run it through the diocese insurance program.

John Smith sharing some good things from a financial point of view: Parishioners have really supported us through the pandemic. The weekly offertory and debt reduction collection are over what we collected last year. Another gave \$25,000 towards mortgage. There has been great generosity in support of the soup kitchen.

We need some publicity to welcome people back. We need to do a blitz to get the word out.

Once the dispensation has been lifted, people will come back, but it might be slower to get everyone back.

If we keep Zooming, then some people might stay home still.

We should make an announcement in the bulletin and online for Easter weekend masses.

Email blast.

John set up an Amazon Smile. Amazon gives 0.05% of the purchase to a charity.

Smile.amazon.com and Christ the King is the charity.

Mike Rafferty moves to adjourn, Bill Clinton seconds.

8. Closing Prayer

Meeting ends at 7:49 p.m.

Next Meetings:

Thursday, April 8

Monday, May 10

Monday, July 12