

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, January 27, 2020**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, January 27, 2020.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti; Kathy Luczynski (chair) (Finance), James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Jan Rogge (Family Life), Chris Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property) and Barbara Armata (Spiritual Life).

Also present: Richard Wisniowski

Fr. Steve gave an opening prayer.

Then Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Jim noted that the minutes of our last meeting on September 26, 2019 had already been approved via email and were online on the Parish website.

Fundraisers/Events

Tag Sale: Our annual Parish Tag Sale will be held in the Notre Dame School basement on August 7-8, 2020.

Polka Picnic: Our annual Polka Picnic (to be preceded by a Polka Mass at 11:30 A.M.) will be held at the Polanka grounds on Mill Street on August 16, 2020.

This year’s picnic will be held in memory of the late Hank Tomkowicz, a lifelong member (and long time supporter) of our parish

Parish Trip: The subject of our Parish leading another pilgrimage by bus trip was discussed, but none of the Parish Council members present had any immediate plans for such a trip, and it was thought to difficult to organize one in the remaining time before the traditional date for such a trip (in the early spring).

Ultimately, the Parish Council members present decided it would be better to “skip” a year, and attempt to plan a trip for 2021 instead, to avoid exhausting potential destinations as well as parishioner interest and support for such an event.

Fall Mission: Fr. Steve solicited proposals for speakers to hold a Fall Mission at our parish this year. Barb Armata passed along two suggestions that had come to the attention of the Spiritual Life Committee, and Fr. Steve said he would inquire of the Diocese about any list of speakers that they might have.

Ultimately, the Parish Council members present decided it might be better to “skip” a year, and attempt to plan a mission for 2021 instead, to avoid exhausting potential speakers as well as parishioner interest and support for such an event.

Financial Update

FY 2020 Q2 Report: After mentioning that the Finance Committee met last week, Kathy summarized the financial report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2020, which she described as “solid” overall.

Kathy noted that (somewhat surprisingly) both collections and our Parish’s cash accounts are up over last year, and that our expenses are slightly down since the yoking of our Parish with St. Mary’s in Cheshire last fall has led to some savings through cost-sharing.

There is roughly \$97,000 in our Parish Memorial Fund, with about \$57,000 earmarked for St. Stanislaus Kostka church (of which about \$40,000 is earmarked for the steeple project) and about \$40,000 earmarked for Notre Dame church.

Committee Updates

Property Committee: Larry announced that the contract for the engineering study for the St. Stanislaus Kostka steeple project by Kuhn-Riddle Architects (“KRA”) in Amherst is currently being circulated for the necessary signatures.

The study, which will cost a base price of \$49,500, is intended to identify the problems with the steeple, roof and upper masonry of St. Stanislaus Kostka church, recommend what needs to be done to fix them, and estimate the cost of doing so.

The Parish chose KRA to perform the engineering study after the Property Committee put the project out to bid three separate times.

The study itself will occur in five phases over several months.

Following the recent departure of Sr. Jacqueline Kazanowski, the Property Committee inspected the condition of the St. Stanislaus Kostka convent, and determined that while the basement (where pre-school classes are conducted) and first floor were in good shape, the second floor had sustained water damage, and the roof needs to be replaced, which has been duly reported to the Diocese.

In November 2019, the Diocese sent the Property Committee a letter calling for it to arrange for all Parish buildings to be inspected by the Town’s Building and (where appropriate) Health inspectors, since the Parish’s certificates of compliance are a few years out of date.

These instructions coincided with a push by the Town’s new Building inspector to catch up on past due inspections of public buildings in Town.

The Property Committee has made the necessary arrangements for the first round of inspections to begin with the two churches, then Notre Dame school and then the charity center.

Communications Committee: Jim circulated copies of the proposed Parish calendars for March and April 2020 and asked that anyone with suggestions for additions or changes to email them directly to Mary Jette at m.jette@verizon.net.

Jim also expressed the readiness of the Communications Committee to publicize the Polka Picnic on August 16, 2020, which appears to be the next major Parish project for which a major “push” will be required.

Family Life Committee: Jan read the Family Life Committee's mission statement, and briefly related the efforts of that Committee to recruit new members and expand its efforts.

Jan also commended the efforts of the Committee's Caring Hands subcommittee, which knits blankets, etc. for newly born infants, nursing home residents, etc. In this regard, Chris mentioned that the Caring Hands group had recently donated some afghans and shawls to the Adams Council on Aging, and had received a number of thank-you's for doing so.

Barb passed along a suggestion by Spiritual Life co-chair Mary Whitman that our Parish imitate a similar project mounted by the parish that she attends in Florida, and donate teddy bears to the Louison House. The pros and cons of doing so were briefly discussed and considered.

Spiritual Life Committee: Barb passed along a suggestion by Mary Whitman that our Parish hold a healing Mass at some point this year in conjunction with St. Mary's in Cheshire.

Hospitality Committee: Chris noted that the Hospitality Committee would hold its next coffee social on March 29, 2020.

New Business

Bishop's Visit: Kathy circulated the Diocesan report about Bishop Mitchell Rozanski's visit to our Parish this past September.

Overall, the Bishop commended the efforts of our Parish and its pastoral team, and offered a few points of constructive criticism as to how our pastoral services might be improved.

The visit also gave our Parish an excellent opportunity to bring to the Bishop's attention our concerns regarding Diocesan assessments and related financial issues.

Next Meeting: Our Parish Council's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

The following meeting after that is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2020.

Fr. Steve gave the closing prayer.

Jim moved to adjourn; Larry seconded the motion; and it passed. The meeting then adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)