

North Universalist Chapel Society, Woodstock, Vermont Minutes of Annual Meeting, January 26, 2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. in the North Chapel social hall following a pot luck lunch. About 45 members and friends of the congregation were in attendance.

WELCOME: Mary Jeanne Taylor, President of the Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone and read a blessing for the North Chapel community. She recognized Daniel's sabbatical and the challenges as well as the potential for the NUCS community to meet those challenges during Daniel's absence.

Mary Jeanne Taylor read the names of the eight new members who joined the North Chapel in 2013. Mary Jeanne Taylor invited any who were looking to become better known to introduce themselves. Ariel Arwen introduced herself. Valerie Parauka, who is in the process of signing the book and becoming a member, also introduced herself.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Representing the Nominating Committee, David Doolittle MOVED to elect Kevin Geiger as Moderator for the year 2014. Seconded by Neil Marinello. Election of Kevin Geiger as Moderator passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF CLERK: Representing the Nominating Committee, David Doolittle MOVED to elect Joan Haley as Clerk for the year 2014. Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of Joan Haley as Clerk passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF TREASURER: Representing the Nominating Committee, David Doolittle MOVED to elect Ann Wynia as Treasurer for 2013. Seconded by Peggy Kannenstien Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of Ann Wynia as Treasurer passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT:

Discussion: Kevin Geiger invited any questions about the Annual Report.

Carol Egbert asked about the contract with the Hand-and-Hand suppers. Lynn Peterson explained that the Board of Trustees had made the contract with Hand-in-Hand. With this agreement, the Hand-in-Hand event is now covered by NUCS insurance.

Peggy Kannenstein MOVED to accept the Annual Report. Seconded by Peg Brightman. Acceptance of the Annual Report passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mary Jeanne Taylor, Board of Trustees MOVED to nominate Neil Marinello and Irene Hanslin to the Nominating Committee. Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of Neil Marinello and Irene Hanslin to the Nominating Committee passed unanimously.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: David Doolittle of the Nominating Committee MOVED to nominate the following members to the Board of Trustees. Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of the four following members passed unanimously.

Anne Macksoud
Denise Lyons
Elizabeth Reeves
Susan Inui
Ann Marinello (for another year)

These first four people are nominated for a three year term.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: David Doolittle of the Nominating Committee put forth Trish Compton as the nominee for the Finance Committee. He noted one additional member will be appointed by the Board, per our bylaws, Article VII, Section 5, which states: A vacancy in an office shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Trustees.

There was a question about Pieter Bohlen who was in the annual report as part of the finance committee. Mary Jeanne Taylor explained that Pieter said he could not continue on the committee.

Neil Marinello MOVED to accept these nominations, Irene Hanslin seconded the motion. Nomination is unanimously approved

BUDGET:

Discussion:

Chris Loyd noted that in 2014 budget for the first time they did not automatically cut expenses to make a balanced budget. Instead they will be trying to make up the difference through additional fundraising and relying on the fact that additional pledges will likely come in, as they have regularly done in the past.

There was a question about why the maintenance was so high. Response was that there was a problem with the sewer system, frozen pipes and also issues with rodents that caused damage as well.

Chris also noted that they will be taking the reserve funds to the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) so that these funds can be professionally invested. This will help NUCS create a source of funding to meet our increasing capital and maintenance needs. It will be a draw down and replenishment account. People will also be able to make gifts to the funds. Donors could indicate their interest in planned giving and other gifts to go to NUCS and including specific projects of NUCS, Peggy Kannenstein noted she was delighted that NUCS funds will be used in this way and has had very good experiences with the VCF. Because VCF has a substantial amount of money to invest and do it very well so NUCS should be getting a higher return on investment. This will also increase NUCS ability to draw from a broader donor audience. Chris encouraged everyone to consider including NUCS in the planned giving. Ann Wynia noted that the finance committee has done a tremendous job this year. Mary Jeanne also recognized Anne's continued good work as treasurer and her gratitude for the finance committees' support of her work.

Neil noted a possible typo in line 2018 barn maintenance; there seemed to be an addition area. Response was that they are trying to accumulate cash ahead of time so that when big maintenance expenses come up, they will have the funds available.

Budget is unanimously approved.

UPDATES:

a. Sabbatical:

Neil Marinello noted although it is a daunting task of taking care of all of NUCS business while he is away. He noted many people from the congregation will be stepping up to help cover the gaps in Daniel's absence. There has also been a structured plan developed to help the work flow smoothly. Neil notes that we are set up as best as we can.

b. Social Justice Committee:

Richard Schram and Rhonda read the vision for the committee. They also did a survey to help steer the committees' decision making and activities. They worked with Sustainable Woodstock, Change the World Kids, and gun control. They expanded the committee's presence on NUCS website and worked to help facilitate the development of a group to support youth in our community. They want to help all of the NUCS committees' work. Upcoming activities include a workshop for youth, a workshop on race and one on class and privilege. They would like to see more people involved with meetings, but they feel the support of the congregation and are moving forward.

c. Communications

Neil Stannard reported that they are upgrading the communication systems. Everyone should receive the newsletter, if not it might be going into the same folder. They want the congregation to get information from the NUCS website and newsletter. There is also a webpage where people can post their reflections. Neil invites others to participate and people to contact them with questions or suggestions.

d. Buildings and Grounds:

Jack Nelson reported that the elevator is broken. New projects include painting and sewer repair, which will cost about \$15,000.

e. RE Program:

Hope Yeager said that they would like to provide more for older children, but they are short on people to help. If anyone is interested, they should contact her.

FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE

Mary Jeanne read a letter of gratitude recognizing Lynn's two terms of work on the board. Lynn will be leaving the board.

UNSUNG HERO:

Ann Marinello recognized Veronica Delay for her help on Friday evenings with vespers and other work. Hope Yeager read a letter noting Charity Gray's contributions to the church including her Wednesday morning meditations at the Chapel. Deb Rice spoke of Ann Dean's valuable work, especially with sustainable food systems and her regular oneness blessings provided to the community.

ADJOURNMENT: Neil Marinello MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Deb Hawthorne seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Haley
Clerk, North Universalist Chapel Society