

Minutes
Bridge Committee, September 21, 2023
4:00pm zoom

Attendance: Caron Chess (chair), rev. Will Green, Joanne Sterling, Anne Coughlin (scribe), Tookie Harris, Rachel Bingham

Opening: Will offered a prayer. Caron read the Covenant.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as mailed. (No meeting held in August)

Proposed program, “a personal perspective on autism.” Saturday, October 21, 11am

Rachel, who along with her son has been diagnosed with autism, has discussed with Will a presentation, to be sponsored by NBC, to help demystify adult and childhood autism, drawing on her own experience and learnings. The committee welcomed her offer and agreed on a date and time. Will and Rachel will work together on presentation format, publicity posters, and general announcements, including personal outreach by Rachel. Bridge committee members will bring snacks and use their personal email contacts to reach out to potential audience.

Rummage Sale update

- We can use the stage area for prep and storage.
- Tookie will send an email to her list of past volunteers making clear the volunteer times and dates for the upcoming sale.
- Tookie and Caron will go over a advertising schedule.
- Tookie will designate a “leader of the day”, especially for days she will be unable to attend or set up.
- At the end of each day the leader will create a task list for the next shift, to be posted in the kitchen or in fellowship hall.

Date night update

- Participation: Will reported he sent an email to families that had participated in previous date nights, and the response immediately filled us to capacity of 18 children. Using tithe.ly for registration.
- Agreed that we will put a donation jar on check-in table and emphasize that while program is free, donations to pay for food are welcome. Expectation is that this will cover costs, so no request for funding in budget. If this falls short, Will suggested we could change policy to request \$10 from each family towards food.
- Rory is designated leader for Saturday sept 22.

Communication update

- Will Crosby sent some questions to Caron. She will run them by the communications task force
- Generally we are experiencing slow turnaround with Will. Not a crisis yet.

2024 Budget

Each committee is asked to submit a budget request. Our known expenses will be for developing Communications materials (at least \$500 based on wills estimate of printing costs for a poster) and for Rummage Sale supplies (approximately \$100 spent so far). Committee agreed a request for \$1000 would be reasonable.

Wabanaki update

Caron and a few other committee members will be attending a zoom meeting about the upcoming referendum issue. We hope that will clarify next steps NBC may wish to pursue. A new Sovereignty bill will be introduced when legislature reconvenes in January.

Root Cellar update

The root cellar needs more volunteers. Helen Burton has been volunteering most Mondays but having difficulty recruiting more folks. Anne noted that potential island volunteers without easy access to a car need to know when someone will be driving up to the site. Caron will meet with Helen to follow up and brainstorm strategies.

Budget/Fundraising expectation for 2024

Will announced that based on a recent Finance Committee meeting starting to look at 2024 revenues and expenses, the finance committee may be requesting Bridge undertake one or two additional fundraisers next year (the number \$10,000 was mentioned. An art auction was mentioned). Caron pointed out that when staff were added mid-2023, funded initially out of reserves, she specifically asked if that meant there would be addition fundraising expectations of the Bridge Committee and was told "no." Anne also remembered that exchange. Consensus that overall fundraising expectations of Bridge, as well as specific approaches to fundraising, need further discussion. Joanne agreed to make this an agenda item at the October board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15. Next meeting October 18, 4pm, zoom.