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**In Attendance** - Rob Bunton, Rev. Will Green, Stephanie Eliot, Rory Sellers, Bill Oliver, Karen Friedman

**Special meeting** called so we could learn more about the acoustic tiles – pros and cons, estimated cost and ultimate vote to continue forward with the project.

- Regarding the PI Fund Grant ask for this year: as we will not be able to accomplish this by March 1, we will not ask for the grant. Agreed that it was fine and will allow other non-profits who have not received a grant yet to have a better chance of receiving one.

**Conversation:** Rory has been in touch with the Tile Company salesperson. He has also been to 1<sup>st</sup> Parish UU Church in Portland to see the acoustic ceiling recently installed for the same needs as ours. Rory included photos both on-line and printed copies. He made a strong effort to acquire a sample tile for our meeting today but was unable to do so (due to salesperson not responding soon enough.)

- Rob brought in three different packets of information from the company, some of which the salesperson had not included in their meeting. (Rob printed them off the website – thank you Rob and Rory.)
- Rory and Rob reported the tiles in 1<sup>st</sup> Parish are called Uplift clips – they are semi-conceal, and you can take them off the ceiling in case of a leak. You won't ever need to paint them, and they are made with recycled material. They are matte, not shiny, but bright. (It will look very nice.)
- The panels are either 2'X2' or 2'X4' – you will be able to have recessed lighting. (an excellent example of good stewardship recycling: the old lights from the hall are now being used in the shed.)
- Part of the conversation will be regarding clips: the crown moldings create a lot of air leakage, so we'll need to change that.
- A guestimate quote of \$8,700 – it could be two months before we start this. It was agreed that we need to ask the point person for the tiles to come out and look at our ceiling. (Our new lights can be installed at the same time as the acoustic tiles.)
- A minimal look at cost – could be getting 2X2s from Home Depot for \$1,200.
- Steet rock equals \$12,500
- We need to decide between the Sonar, which are textured, and the Alaska, which are a little better acoustically.
- Will said to go ahead with putting the tiles in and wants to get the guy out here to look at it. All are okay with a grid on the ceiling; a drop ceiling is okay.
- It is unknown if the tiles are pretty tight – Rory says yes, they give an R-value of 3.6 for material, whereas sheet rock is only a .5. The R value adds to the insulation value of the ceiling.
- We'd like to keep the ceiling as high as possible. We think it is a 3" drop, which is better for insulation. We could insulate the corners very well – maybe drop it 4". The acoustics in the hall are very important. Rob credited Will with bringing the idea of these tiles to him back in November – he wouldn't have been aware of the possibility without his mentioning it. (Thank you Will!)
- Rob will be returning to the sheetrock installer, letting him know that in a group decision we unanimously decided not to get the drywall, and instead to go with the acoustic tiles. He has \$4,000 of our money, which Rob feels he will most likely return to us.
- Rob will also let Dean Kamp know that he will be installing the ceiling.

**The vote for acoustic tiles** gives us these advantages:

- 1) For a comparable price, it addresses the sound issue, which the drywall does not.
- 2) We do not have to paint the tiles – they will not have a yellowing grid effect. They won't be revealed.
- 3) It gives us better lighting.
- 4) If there was ever a water leak, we can replace the tiles individually.\*\*
- 5) It will look better than drywall.

\*\*It would be an excellent (wise) decision to **purchase extra tiles and tell someone where they are if we need to replace them.**

- These tiles will be hung from the strapping and joists in the ceiling.

Regarding **leaks and the roof**:

- Our roof is probably 15 years old, with another 20 years left of good wear before we need to begin discussing getting a new one.
- Disappointingly, one of the recent storms this month caused a leak in the kitchen.
- Musings on what should be done for the vestry ceiling, which has a big stain with broken lathe above (no conclusion.)

Karen Friedman asked about how much money do we have left in our grant from the PI Fund?

- Rob happily informed her that at his last meeting with the Finance Committee, he asked for \$9,000 in addition to what's already in there, along with a list of what we need (hope) to do, and the request was granted.
- Further, the Finance Committee voted to add \$2,000 a month to the Capital Improvement Fund, building it into the budget.
- The Board will also need to vote on this.
- No other organizations from our church are asking for a grant from the PI fund.
- There was a unanimous vote not to get drywall, but instead purchase and install the acoustic ceiling tiles.
- Jenn Hess and Cheryl Higgins, not in attendance, have previously stated that they both have complete faith in the Committee's judgement. Todd voted for the drop ceiling.

**Decisions still to be made**

- Style and texture of tiles.
- Get exact price – it could be \$11,000+

There being no further discussion, meeting was adjourned.

(Notes taken by Stephanie Eliot, typed by Deb L.)