

Bridge Committee Minutes

March 20, 3 pm, zoom

Attending: Caron Chess, Tookie Harris, Georgette Fehrenbach, Anne Coughlin, Amber Sellers, Cheryl Higgins, Mary Anne Mitchell, Betsey Remage-Healey, Rev. Will Green, Linda Capone-Newton

Opening: Will offered a prayer, Caron read the Covenant

UPDATES

Gun Safety (Betsey) Maine Gun Safety Institute staff report positive momentum coming out of last week's judiciary committee work session. A second session is scheduled for this week. Assuming bills are report out "ought to pass" the advocacy emphasis will be on shoring up the "fence sitters" in the full legislature. Watch for emails identifying key legislators.....ours are already on board, but if we know people in districts where advocacy is needed we can urge them to reach out to their representatives.

Drug safety: Community partnership event (Will) NBC will partner with the Health Association on April 6 from 4-5 pm to offer the community a "Narcan Use and Harm Reduction" class (harm reduction = how to safely test drugs for fentanyl). CERT may also co-sponsor. Free but donations will be accepted to support Portland Healthy Needle Exchange. Will is arranging to have Narcan available at the church. It was noted that Portland Parks and Rec may sponsor a similar program sometime this summer.

Neurodiversity Conversation update: (Will). Third conversation held; series is complete. Rachel may be open to another informational presentation in the future. A future "conversation" is being considered around gender and what is non-binary...still in the works.

Environment (Mary Anne) we are adding additional bins, signs and other supplies to further improve recycling and reduce waste in the kitchen. Work continues planning landscaping around the church. Trucks will be needed to remove wisteria vines and Barberry bushes; may need to be done in stages if expensive. In all likelihood we are looking at fall planting for new gardens. We need a plan/design to support fundraising; Mary Anne recommends we reach out beyond NBC, as Jan Thomas was an important musical presence in other communities. She will consult with Liz about Cumberland.

Wabanaki Sovereignty (Caron) waiting to hear from the Alliance on next steps for what was the large bill, which has been reduced to just a few relatively minor items. Caron

reported she has been invited to join the Wabanaki Alliance communication committee (her decision depends on learning more about expectations). She reported the Alliance Director knew about our Island newspaper: Will and Caron plan to work on a letter to the editor.

Rummage Sale: (Tookie et Al) Memorial Day weekend May 26-27. Tookie will convene a small task force (Tookie, Rob Bunton, Linda Capone-Newton, Jenn Hess) to establish drop off dates and physical arrangements. Tookie would like to begin accepting stuff starting May 1, using the shed. (Shelves on wheels have been purchased and set up in the shed with help from Eric Winchester). Will says we can use Fellowship Hall starting Saturday afternoon (May 11). We probably will only need a portion of the space during the first week, all of it in week before sale. Important to communicate dates with RE, which is scheduled to continue through May.

Communication/Hallway (Caron) looking for a time to meet with Will Crosby next week. Caron will invite Judy Fitch and Rachel Bingham Kessler to join the small task force working with Will Crosby on this project.

Date Night (Georgette) Georgette and Irv Williams have agreed to be co-coordinators and report to Bridge. Each night will still have two folks in charge. One more scheduled before summer break. There will be a list on refrigerator for suggestions to improve. New people (including non-church volunteers) are saying they want to volunteer. Immediate task is to clarify roles, identify communication needs, orient new volunteers.

Meeting adjourned 3:56.