

GPC Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2022

*Hybrid meeting: in-person & Zoom conference call: Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Nancy White, Kim Paré, Dennis O'Malley, Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Charles Whittall*  
*Guests: Kenneth White, David Raphael*

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:31 p.m.

Dave Raphael offered a prayer of guidance for the deliberations of the Governing.

**VOTE:** The GB meeting minutes from 6/28/22 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Nancy moved to accept the minutes written. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Charlie Whittall gave a financial update for the first six months of the year. UBS is going to transfer \$25k. We have less than \$3k in the bank. We have a bill for \$5k for a deposit on the new Leeds' Street sign. Another \$5k is due for our quarterly insurance. Food Hub has not pay last nor this month's rent due. Parking rentals across the street have also not paid for the last two months. We also haven't seen any payments from the Athol Y. There may be more invoices (up to \$60k) due for the garden room by the end of September. Once income comes in, we'll be able to pay the bills. We may need to borrow more for the completed Garden Room project.

Food Pantry update: The numbers are increasing as the need in the community increases and food process soar.

The Shanahan soundboard update: keyboard does not work. Recap from last month's information:  
1. Our mixer has 32 channels/inputs to connect the microphones. There is a problem with channels 1-24. Those channels are unstable and send feedback even when muted. This is the reason we've been having so many issues with our sound. The sound engineer updated the software, but could not fix the channels and he thought the problem is internal. The good thing is that 8 channels are working and the sound engineer set up the microphones on these channels. **For now, the sound in the Sanctuary should be good.**

2. Another option is to get a small sound board and an iPad. This gives us the advantage of managing the sound from downstairs and streaming at the same time from the iPad. Checking for small sound board mixers saw reasonable prices from \$200-\$500. Research continues on this.

Carolina is essentially awaiting a quote from her contact. The verbal estimate is \$2500 to repair. Hard copy quote is forthcoming.

Dennis C. filed a claim with the Better Business Bureau regarding the Ritacco Brothers. If nothing comes from this, we will pursue small claims court.

A chair lift was installed and people have successfully used it.

Nancy said the Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing Company has collected water samples. This information has been sent to DEP. She'll print and post new signage required of the Emergency Response Plan. There was a Title V audit of the septic system. We're still awaiting the results. The Wi-Fi was shut off but it'll be turned back on. There was an electronic glitch for a paperless bill. The dumpster hasn't been picked up for two weeks. Republic has had some change in personnel. Ken and Nancy chased down the dispatcher for July pick up.

The suggestion was made to contact the Chair, Board of Directors of the Athol Y, Kena Vescovi. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Dennis Christo and Nancy will meet with Board Chair Vescovi for a meet and greet, and general conversation about Selah. Nancy has been meeting annually with the Executive Director, Jennifer Gordon, of the Y for annual Selah use.

The Trustees of the Reservations, a nonprofit conservation organization, is interested in potentially purchasing the property and maintaining it as a preserved property. They will make a determination in the fall and maybe an offer.

There was a discussion about Signarama asking for half the amount of invoice for the proposed electronic sign at the Leeds' Street entrance. More to come after a meeting with the representative.

There was a discussion about signage for the Sanctuary doors. When locked, enter through the parking lot for alternate Sundays when services are in the Chapel.

The LGBTQ Asylum Task Force sent an invitation for their Gala at the DCU on 9/24. Tickets are \$125 per person or sponsor levels. There was a discussion about supporting this mission.

**VOTE:** Bob made a motion to buy a table for the LGBTQ Asylum Task Force Gala Nancy seconded this motion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Dave Raphael is sponsoring \$200. Towards the table.

Dennis C. would like Nancy to craft a letter to the congregation regarding the increased regulatory requirements and decreased use of Selah. It will be informational in nature, to keep the congregation updated and not necessarily about selling the property. We will be transparent in sharing information as it comes in throughout the fall from the Athol Y and the Trustees of the Reservations. We may hold a special informational meeting before the Annual Meeting in January 2023.

Rev. Doug is meeting with a Cub Scouts' representative on 8/8 regarding their request for a Chartered Organization Representative (COR) of GPC.

Charlie received a letter to GPC from Northern American Annuity. Dorothea Simmons left a bequest to GPC for \$4,982, but Dennis C. needs to send in her death certificate along with the required forms.

Dave said he and Doug made a trip around the building inspecting the fire extinguishers. Of the 12, 5 were not tested since 2020. Impact bought out O'Connell. They'll be in tomorrow morning to test them. An additional extinguisher will be added to the chapel since there isn't one in there.

Dennis O. made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

The next regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk*