

Regular Attendees		Present
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Jane Barnes	Treasurer	Y
Jeff Brainerd	Standing Committee member	Y
Rev. Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Dave Elwood	Chair	Y
Laurel Gray	Ministerial Intern	Y
C. C. King	Standing Committee member	Y
John Lowe	Standing Committee member	Y
Peter Nobile	Clerk	Y
Liz Rust	Standing Committee member	Y
Susan See	Standing Committee member	Y
Kate Svreck	Standing Committee member	Y
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Marion Visel	Minister for Pastoral Care	
Tom Wilson	Standing Committee member	Y
Guests	Representing	
Mel Bernstein	The Wright Tavern	
Eric Moore	Nominating Committee	
Laura Bernstein	Trustees of First Parish	

Howard opened with Rev. Susan Winn’s *Moving Mountains, One Stone at a Time*, and we held a moment of silence.

Introductions and welcome to new members

The committee enthusiastically welcomed Jane Barnes, CC King, Liz Rust and Susan See to their first terms of service! Dave read a thank you note from Beth Norton for the gift approved by the Standing Committee (SC) last month.

Wright Tavern update

Mel Bernstein updated the committee on the current status of the Wright Tavern. Mel reminded the SC that First Parish had signed an agreement with the Concord Museum in 2016, based on an exploratory report that proposed a detailed long-range plan for the Tavern. Mel reviewed several events behind the efforts to open the Tavern to greater public access, and FP was looking forward to a long-term relationship with the Museum. However, in April of 2019, the Concord Museum’s Executive Director notified the Trustees that the Museum will not be renewing its 3-year lease at the end of this first term. For emphasis, Mel gave a summary overview of the history of the Tavern which has sat in the center of pivotal events in American history, from revolutionary war events in the late 18th century, continuing with the 1885 gift of the Tavern to First Parish from Judge Ebenezer Hoar and Reuben Rice, through National Historic Landmark status in 1961 and onward. Mel concluded by urging the SC to keep faith with the Tavern as a birthplace of American democracy, to keep faith with donors Hoar and Rice to do the right thing for the Wright Tavern and for the benefit of future generations of American, and to continue to

respect the National Landmark status of the building.

Tom noted that John Boynton and Roslyn Romberg are analyzing what best next steps to take regarding the Tavern as part of First Parish's property portfolio. A first step will be to reconstitute the Wright Tavern study group, to include members of the SC and the Trustees, to revise the long-range plan for the building. Tom noted that the space is difficult to rent for several reasons, and that there has long been both First Parish uses and a modest income from the property. Tom reported that the Museum unfortunately did not receive a grant that was to fund their Wright Tavern programming, and that there were also changes in Museum leadership at and reprioritization of programming. Howard recommended that First Parish examine ways that the building could be used primarily for church purposes, as we are almost out of physical space. CC reminded us of the Wright Tavern for Spiritual Renewal, as well as Jericho Road, both past FP offerings that took place in the Tavern. Mel noted that excess net revenue from the Tavern is intended to reduce debt at First Parish.

Laura is concerned that in the "drift" of uses of this National Historic Landmark is not being looked at from an appropriate historic conservation perspective, and that the arrangement with the Museum was intended to develop fundraising for long term preservation and maintenance of the building. John suggested that Howard and Tom and the Trustees work together to develop a proposal about how to move forward for the SC to consider. The group discussed the usefulness of both past and possible future Concord Community Preservation funds. This entire issue will be reviewed at future SC meetings.

Chair's report

- Dave reviewed the structure and operation of the SC for the benefit of new members, including subcommittees and liaisons, which the SC plans to leave in place for the moment. Liaison assignments were discussed and will be updated. Both Liz and Susan volunteered to help John with the Governance subcommittee.
- Dave suggested a "new member" potluck before our next meeting on July 9th at 6PM before our 7PM meeting.

Approval of minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve Minutes from the May 14th and May 28th SC meetings, which will be posted to the First Parish web site as soon as possible.

Director of Operations' Report

Tom asked about an apparent surplus in the Net Income line of the budget, which Fifi clarified will likely zero out at the end of the fiscal year. Fifi noted that the Auction brought in less than anticipated which translates into about a \$10,000 reduction in that line item of this year's budget. Fifi asked the SC to approve changes to the FY 2019 Operating Budget, for telephone system expenditures,

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve a total of \$2,283 in telephone system expenditures, including \$1,941 in phone system repair earlier this fiscal year, comprised of \$342 for cell phone and seven monthly bills for Doug Baker. Additionally, \$2,500 was approved for Facilities

Repairs as part of an overall \$6,300 cost for Fire alarm panel & main annunciator upgrades.

Minister's Report

The group gratefully received Howard's Senior Minister (SM) which was briefly reviewed. The group discussed the process around the upcoming hiring of a new Social Action Coordinator as well as the context for annual Sunday worship numbers.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Diversity banners

The committee discussed whether to keep the BLM banner and Diversity banners up in front of the church, and whether to make such banners more or less permanent. It was noted that the Diversity banner is only up for Pride month (June). Howard encouraged us to think creatively, for instance through use of colored lights projected onto the building, changing our front sign, and different uses of the Wayside Pulpit.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to approve the continued display of the Black Lives Matter banner for another 6 months.

Governance subcommittee

John is excited to have Liz and Susan joining his subcommittee. John updated us on the progress of three SC surveys, one on SC goals, one on Governance, and one on SM/SC relations. John offered the possibility of a session to review best practices for board membership; he also noted that the SC does not include a subcommittee that focuses on fund development, which beside support for the SM and governance is the third primary task of all boards. John will be creating a charter for an SC fund development subcommittee.

Liaisons/Updates from the Congregation

- Lora reported that she has heard gratitude about both the BLM and Diversity banners.
- Kate noted that the Missa Gaia service was truly extraordinary, and thanked CC for all her work on that service.

Annual Meeting recap

The SC agreed that this year's Annual meeting went quickly and efficiently. Howard reported that the Worship Planning group is suggesting a Friday evening or Saturday evening time for Annual Meeting, organized around a potluck, a suggestion that the SC enthusiastically embraced. Howard suggested reserving that date now, which would be either June 5th or 12th in 2020.

Time for Action Updates

Leaders of the Time for Action task forces are meeting with Howard tomorrow, June 12th, to discuss progress to dates and any next steps. Kate noted that there has been a lack of clarity from the SC as to the purpose and further work of these task forces; Peter, Tom and Lora also advocated for more communication, clarifying of roles and what future efforts would look like.

The main meeting was closed at 9:05PM, and there was a short Executive Session. With no further business before the Committee, the Executive Session was closed at 10:05PM and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Nobile, Clerk