

Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 10th, 2019 6:30pm

In attendance: Judy Goldberg, Michael Brown, Lizza Sandoe, Judy Sletzinger, Aaron Friedman, Steve Probst, Marla Lewitus, Susan Tohn, Mike Joachim, Marcos Szydlo, Jim Billings, Debbie Glass, Jon Harper, Jesse Wertheimer, Justin Lewitus, Toby Kopman, Jocylyn Bailin, Laurie Margolies, Scott Newman, Beth Schine, Neil Frieband, Shoni Aronovich, Cynthia Myersberg

Welcome: Judy Goldberg

Judy thanked folks for showing up early today for the security presentation.

Security Presentation: Tom Rose, Chuck Kukla, Chief Nix (Sudbury Police)

In an emergency:

The average police response happens in 5-7 minutes

The average incident is over within 2-3 minutes

The number one thing you can do to survive is to evacuate.

Tom and Chuck have spent the past several months meeting with a wide variety of medical, police, and security professionals. They have put together a Congregational Readiness Proposal, that is a combination of congregational and individual actions and responsibilities. There are three parts to the proposal:

1. Congregant Readiness

Congregant readiness envisions training select members of the Beth El community to respond in the case of an emergency. There would be three parts to this training:

- a) a **Congregant Safety Forum**. This would be held on a Sunday afternoon. A notice about it would go out to the congregation; additionally the rabbi will be making personal asks to a select group of people. The Sanctuary and Yachad groups would also receive personal invitations. At the forum Tom and Chuck, with support from the Rabbi, will present the data to the attendees: what are the risks? They will then present a plan of action and ask for feedback from the group.
- b) **ALICE training**. This would also be held on a Sunday afternoon. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is the protocol being taught in schools, universities and workplaces. Chief Nix of the Sudbury police department would run this training. TBD how ALICE will spread from this forum – will we practice it in the education program? The medical clinic? With the staff in the building? Etc.
- c) **Stop the Bleed workshop** also held on a Sunday afternoon. This is a 30-minute workshop that trains people in the program/protocol for how to deal with injuries.

2. Congregational Readiness

During all these events Chuck, Tom, and other Beth El leaders will be looking to see who in the community has leadership potential for congregational emergencies. This group will be specifically trained in more advanced ways with a program developed in response to the Boston Marathon bombing.

3. Infrastructure Readiness.

- a) Beth El is looking into becoming a pilot site for **InForce 911**. It is an enhanced version of 911 that allows for more direct communication between emergency service providers and the folks calling them. Communications would go directly to the police (not through a dispatcher) and in real time. It operates through smart devices. So far this program is in place only in large institutions. Beth El would be a pilot site for starting to use this system in other places as well. Chief Nix is working with the company and with other local congregations (of any religious stripe) to make this happen.
- b) **“Reunite planning”**: if we need to evacuate, where and how will we meet up? Need to make a plan. Our **first choice** (primary action in case of gas leak or fire) would be to meet up in the Beth El parking lot. Our **second option** would be to meet up at the Sudbury Public Safety building, just a few blocks from BE. This would be in case of fire, gas leak combined with hugely inclement weather. Our **third option**, in the case of a more serious/significant event, is to meet up at the Lincoln-Sudbury high school. We would need drivers for this; some may take folks to the hospital, some would drive folks to LS. One of the trained congregants would be sure to have a congregational directory with him/ her so that they can account for everyone.
- c) **Medical equipment**. Beth El will add a tourniquet kit to the existing defibrillator and invest in a second defibrillator unit.
- d) Beth El will add **protective film** to some doors. This is designed to keep a shooter from being able to see in. Where and how it will be used at BE is TBD.
- e) Doors will be regularly checked and maintained for maximum effectiveness.

Motion: that the Board endorse the proposed Safety Plan. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

Scott requested that the education program staff be trained immediately, or as soon as possible.

Judy thanked Chief Nix, Tom, and Chuck for all their hard work and the presentation. The meeting recessed for 10 minutes to allow folks to stretch and grab a snack or two.

Board meeting resumed 7:40pm

Lorel update: Judy Goldberg

Lorel is feeling fine, taking it easy and continuing with her planned vacation. The Board signed a get-well card for Lorel and a thank you card for Janet.

Temple Administrator's report: Beth Schine

Due to the holidays there is no regular Temple Administrator's report. Beth updated the Board on the rollout of the door **fobs**. At this time the Teachers have fobs and the high school students have fobs. The next group to receive fobs will be parents of students in the education program. Each family will receive one fob; the only exception is for high school families, where the student gets a fob and a parent gets a fob as well. Anyone desiring a second fob will need to pay for it.

Motion: to charge \$10 for an additional or replacement fob. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Rabbi's Report: virtual Rabbi

Ritual:

- Another "first" for me: Selicoht Rinah service.
- Busy preparing for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- Working with leadership on Sukkot planning – please join us on Monday at 3:00 for a festive Sukkot celebration!

Lifecycle/Pastoral:

- Conducted funeral for Dennis Rand and memorial for Ben Halsband.
- Continuing to offer intense pastoral care – not unusual for this time of year.

Community outreach/events

- Was down with a cold...so Stephanie and Cynthia presented for Goodnow story-time on Tues., 9/17 for a Rosh Hashanah program. Will keep reaching out to other libraries for future holidays.
- Attended Global Climate Strike in Boston on Fri. 9/20 along with Beth El members. Will speak on climate change during Yom Kippur services
- I will be teaching at Limmud Boston at 9:00 AM on Sunday, Nov. 17 on: "The Golem's Shadow: Elemental Wonder". Please join me and spread the word!
- Planning to attend CJP event with Shoni on Boston/Haifa connection on 10/30. One of our students will be presenting on HiBuR!

Programming and education

- Scott and I designed and led an all-ages *tashlich* experience this past Sunday at the Grist Mill. I don't have an accurate count (30?), but positive feedback.
- Hosted a class on world religions at our Shabbat services from Nichols College on Friday 9/20. They've been coming for several years – a lovely experience.
- Plan to spend the morning in Boston with HiBuR on Monday 10/21.
- Taught on folklore/ritual of Shofar on Sunday. Will be starting new series on Jewish stories (10:00-10:45 on Sundays) after the chagim.

Administrative

- Busy with High Holidays and festival prep

- I was **accepted into the fourth cohort of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality clergy leadership program!** I'll be attending four one-week-long retreats over the next two years in addition to online work. The first will be in January. I'm looking forward to sharing my new experiences and learning with the Beth El community.

Personal

- Will be taking a few days off here and there over the next few weeks to recharge after the High Holidays/festivals.

Tikkun Olam report: John Harper

Climate action: John was joined by Stephen Breit and Howard Bernstein. The group presented a Beth El Climate and Sustainability Resolution. John Harper gave background: The Climate Action group, now being renamed the Green Team, organized over the summer. Their biggest push to date was to advertise and advocate for the Climate Action strike that took place this past September 20th. There is a strong urgency to this work at this time; this is an imperative crisis! There is a social justice component to this as well; those most affected by climate change first are those who are economically disadvantaged and/or people of color. Action is not happening at all at the federal level. At the state level, it is very much different from state to state; Massachusetts is doing okay but not nearly as well as many other states. Howard B. presented the work being done by JCAN (Jewish Climate Action Network) Working with JCAN Sustainable Wayland, Mass Energize, and other climate activist groups, the group has drafted a resolution for consideration by the Board with three goals:

1. Reduce the environmental impact of Beth El's facilities and operations;
2. Support congregants taking actions to reduce their own carbon footprints; and
3. Advocate changes to slow climate change in our workplaces, communities, state, and nation

Stephen Breit and Ellen Tohn have both volunteered to serve as consultants to the congregation as an entity and to individual congregants. The climate action group is asking the Board to read the proposal and vote on whether or not to endorse it. The ultimate goal is to bring this proposal to the entire congregation for a vote on Climate Action. The Board's role in this is largely visible support and fiduciary responsibility. The group also asked for feedback and other proposals from the Board members.

Motion: to approve the Beth El Climate and Sustainability Resolution. Motion tabled; the Board asked for more time to read the proposal, reflect on it, and ask more questions as needed. The proposal will be revisited at the November 2019 Board meeting and the Green Team will come back to the Board for a vote at the December 2019 Board meeting.

Sanctuary Update: The Beth El community continues to support the Ayela family as they apply for asylum. Both parents are now working and are able to cover nearly

half of their living expenses; Beth El donations are covering the rest. The sanctuary group is preparing a mass mailing to the entire BE community to solicit funds. In addition they have applied to the Religious Action Center (RAC) for a 5K religious immigration mini-grant. This would supplement the funds being raised by the Beth El community; any extra would be used to support other asylum seekers and to support further asylum advocacy.

Safe Communities Act: Kath Bean (guest). In April 2018, the Board endorsed the Sudbury Welcoming Town Resolution, and encouraged Sudbury members to vote in favor. The resolution passed. Now, the effort is statewide. The proposed Massachusetts Safe Communities Act (SCA) currently before the MA legislature would apply to our state the basic tenets of the Sudbury Welcoming Town Resolution. To quote MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition) the SCA would: "...restore community trust in police by avoiding entanglement in immigration matters, and protect due process for *all*." This includes protecting due process, protecting people going to court, barring state and local police from acting as ICE agents, and more. The Safe Communities Act is currently in the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security; see <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1401>. The Sanctuary committee encourages the Board and Beth El members to learn about the bill and to encourage state legislators to move the bill forward. There was some discussion among Board members regarding support of this legislation, including discussion of contested information. The Board asked for more time to review the Safe Communities Act and read up on the debate surrounding it. The topic will be reintroduced at the November Board meeting,

High Holidays Food Drive: was successful again!

Sudbury Winter Coat Drive/MWFMP/Beth El team up: The Sudbury chapter of Neighbor Brigade and the Sudbury Department of Health are collecting winter coats again this year during October. There is a collection box at the Goodnow library – please donate any unneeded coats. The Neighbor Brigade and the Sudbury Department of Health have arranged to bring coats to Beth El in November to offer to MetroWest Free Medical Program clients coming for flu shots.

Friday Protests: Come join fellow Beth El-ers and other MetroWest neighbors each Friday from 4:30 – 5:30pm in Sudbury Center, to call out the federal government's immigration and sanctuary policies. The weekly vigil started June last year (start of family separation policy enforcement), and will continue "until the arc has bent completely toward justice".

Volunteer opportunity: - Beth El Reading Partners – For decades, Beth El has partnered with Dunning Elementary School in Framingham to provide literacy tutors especially in grades K to 3. The program is under the aegis of Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy, www.jcrcboston.org/literacy/. Students include both immigrant and native speakers. The GBJCL provides a training workshop for prospective tutors. This is an opportunity to develop close bonds with a student and to watch them improve over the school year. Faith Szydlo and Debby Young are

stepping back from years of coordinating this effort. Thank you, Faith and Debby.
Who can pick up this thread?

High Holiday Report: Toby Kopman

Toby started by **thanking** everyone who volunteered during the holidays, whether as greeters, parking lot attendants, door monitors, etc. Toby gave a particular shout out to Judy G for all her assistance and to Craig Ross for running things so smoothly.

Feedback:

- Congregants were pleased with the police presence.
- They also really enjoyed being greeted outdoors.
- The volunteers report that they enjoyed volunteering and the opportunity that it gave them to see many more members of the congregation than they otherwise would have.

Challenges:

- A **logistics** challenge: the indoor greeters had no way of knowing for sure if the outdoor greeters had checked for tickets. It was determined that they should assume that tickets were checked outside.
- Another challenge: we need a **plan** for when there are no greeters during a service – both indoor and outdoor greeters were told they only had to stay a half hour into services. What if someone arrives after that? OR steps out to their car and then wants to come back in? Solution: we may need to have at least one greeter remain at their post for the entire duration of their service.
- Volunteerism was low – there were many unfilled slots. The HH's are volunteer-heavy; if we aren't able to recruit more volunteers things will start to break down.
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Meeting adjourned 9:06pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nylycoj Niliab
Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley