



Find Your Way

CONGREGATION BETH EL
OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

Beth El Board Minutes 11/8/2018

Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Yaakov Cohn
- Ken Fishman
- Neil Frieband
- Aaron Friedman
- Ellen Glickman-Simon
- Judy Goldberg
- Sheila Goldberg
- John Harper
- Michael Joachim
- Toby Kopman
- Justin Lewitus
- Laurie Margolies
- Cynthia Meyersberg
- Steve Probst
- Helen Shik
- Lizza Sandoe
- Judy Sletzinger
- Jennifer Stevens
- Marcos Szydlo
- Susan Tohn
- Roberta Unger

Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Scott Newman
- Tom Rose
- Beth Schine

Agenda

- Inclusion Committee's Mental Health Initiative: Roberta and Ruderman reps: 45 min
- Rabbi's report: 10 min
- Administrator's report: 10 min
- Security report and planned actions: Jim and Tom 30 min
- Policy discussion: Fundraising for Tikkun Olam: John 20 min
- Responses to emailed reports: Tikkun Olam, Ritual, Youth and Family Security Plan, Mental Health Initiative, HH free tickets report

Board Votes

- Motion: security policy for Shabbat Torah study and services:
 - Keep the doors locked, so everyone has to be buzzed in: 6 votes in favor
 - Keep doors unlocked and greeters: 11
 - Keep doors unlocked, with no greeters: 2
 - Decision: unlocked and greeters
- Motion: security policy for times when Education programs are scheduled (mostly Sunday morning, since we have staff coverage for other times):
 - Keep the doors locked, so everyone has to be buzzed in: 14 votes in favor
 - Keep doors unlocked and greeters: 1
 - Keep doors unlocked, with no greeters: 0
 - 1 abstention
 - Decision: Keep doors locked
- Motion: When the staff is alone in the building, they decide whether to keep the building locked.
 - Approved unanimously

Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)

Inclusion Committee: Mental Health Initiative

- Robert Unger, Dr. Dolly Sadow, and Dr. David Goodman from the Ruderman Initiative
 - Dolly spoke about mental health issues and dealing with them.
 - She also summarized what Temple Isaiah (Lexington) is doing around mental health.
 - Support groups – but did not get much attendance; people had other support groups, and they did not want to be seen at the group among people they knew – so initiative was not successful
 - Education – always room for discussion in small groups; always someone with lived experience as one of the speakers; draw from members with relevant education
- We are continuing with the Ruderman Initiative.

- We are invited to an event where Anita Diamant is the keynote speaker – five slots still available – at Temple Emanuel in Newton December 11.

Rabbi's Report

- The Pittsburgh shooting took up a lot of his attention and time over the past week.
- He was interviewed by *The Advocate* about it.
- There will be an interfaith Thanksgiving service at St Elizabeth's.

Administrator's Report

- Membership changes since last month
 - One new member household
 - Two resignations of people who had just joined earlier this year
 - All three families were participating in the education programs
- Membership estimates vary this time of year – around 264 right now
 - 16 members have not yet confirmed their membership or reached an arrangement with the office
- Bboards still not working
 - Switched our domain name registration at Rosh Hashanah; the transition has been rocky
 - Website initially went down but came right back up
 - Almost everything else is still down – emails, bboards, etc.
 - Staff emails are still working
 - Problem is that the company we are leaving is refusing to release our domain name for 60 days; that period is up in 2 days, and getting everything back up should take less than a week once that happens
- 120 people Friday night, 100 Saturday morning showed up the Shabbat after the shooting, including participants and gifts from neighboring churches
 - We have also received cards, notes, and letter from nearby churches and individuals acknowledging the Pittsburgh shootings.
- Sudbury Police Chief came by 8:30 Sunday morning after the shootings to show support and to check that we would appreciate having the police doing more drive-by patrols around Beth El and other Sudbury synagogues.

Security Report

- Jim Billings (VP Tsibur) formed Safety Committee
 - Tom Rose is chairing committee
 - Also includes Rabbi, Jim, Cynthia Meyersburg, Beth Schine, Aaron Friedman
 - Also invited Sandy Sherizen (as Beth Elder)
 - See handout
- Tom Rose and Fern Chertok recently rejoined Beth El
 - Was in U.S. Airforce, responsible for security at SAC and the Joint Chiefs
 - Committee has met and started data gathering
- Want to add greeters – primarily about hospitality, but also vigilance and potentially sounding an alarm

- Focusing on safety (broadly), not only security – so also fire, medical, etc. emergencies
- Actions taken thus far
 - Keeping building locked, with greeters to unlock doors
 - Meeting with MWFMP to balance security with being welcoming to non-members
 - For education programs, we are keeping the building locked with the side door as the single point of entry/exit
 - Covering the side door with staff and volunteers until we have a different plan whenever there is school or there are services
- Long discussion on how the Board feels about various security issues and options
 - Assume parent coverage of doors on Sundays
 - Scott will see if can get parent volunteers for Mondays and Thursdays; otherwise staff
 - For MWFMP, they will keep side door locked and front door open with greeters starting at 5:00 p.m.

Fundraising for Tikkun Olam

- Brief discussion of handout

Reports and Attachments

- Mental Health Initiative Overview for Board
- April 2017 Security Report
- Safety – Betichut Committee Notes
- Youth and Family Education Committee Security Proposal
- Coordination of Tikkun Olam Fund-Raising – Nov 2018
- HH Guest Follow-Up Report
- November 2018 Ritual Report
- Tikkun Olam Report 11-08-2018