



Find Your Way

CONGREGATION BETH EL
OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

Beth El Board Minutes 5/9/2019

Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Ken Fishman
- Neil Frieband
- Aaron Friedman
- Judy Goldberg
- Sheila Goldberg
- John Harper
- Michael Joachim
- Toby Kopman
- Justin Lewitus
- Laurie Margolies
- Cynthia Meyersburg
- Steve Probst
- Lizza Sandoe
- Helen Shik
- Jen Stevens
- Marcos Szydlo
- Susan Tohn

Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Beth Schine
- Shoni Aronovich
- Scott Newman

Agenda

- Hebrew with Janet: 10 min
 - Outreach request and proposal for response to dues delinquency: Beth, 5 min
 - Inclusion: Susan 5 min
 - Proposal to allow board members to participate remotely and to appropriate funds: Ken, 10 min
 - Proposal to extend free tuition to high school: Sheila, Scott, and Shoni, 10 min
 - Security update: Judy and Jim: 10 min
 - Preliminary info on capital budget: Beth, Steve and Jim: 15 min
 - EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Budget forecast for 2019-20 and vote: Mike
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- NOTE: Annual meeting is Thursday, June 6 at 7:30 pm
 - Please review synopses of 4 MA legislature bills for proposed endorsement at June meeting

Board Votes

Video Conferencing of Board Meetings

- To approve the installation and use of Video Conferencing (“VC”) technology at Beth El board meetings commencing July 1, 2019. The proposed technology may be utilized by elected board members and staff who wish to attend board meetings but are physically unable to do so.
- Vote: 16 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstention: approved

Sending Letter for Terminated Membership

- To authorize the Temple Administrator to send letters of notice for members who have dropped communication with Beth El and not paid this year. The letters to be sent at the Temple Administrator’s discretion.
- Approved unanimously

High School Financial Policy

- To offer one year of free tuition/free membership for a limited number of students in 8th, 9th, and 10th grades whose parents are not current or recent Beth El members, to fill one class at each level.
- Approved unanimously.

Budget

- To approve the proposed FY 2020 budget as discussed, with no increase in standard dues (\$3,100).
- Approved unanimously.

Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)

Membership Report (Susan)

- 24-25 resignations this year
 - 4 relatively new and decided we did not fit
 - 1 person missed Rabbi Thomas
 - 1 person received free membership at another congregation where they are working
- 12 new members this year

Security Report (Judy and Jim)

- Chuck Kukla and Tom Rose presented to the staff yesterday about overall safety of the building.
- They will assemble a group of experts (Sudbury police officers, fire officers, medical personnel, EMTs, etc.) to do a deep dive and prepare recommendations to the staff.
- Chuck, Tom, and the staff will then prepare for and implement improvements in Beth El security.
- We have gotten information on augment current systems (cameras, etc.).
- We are looking at locking the doors more with a better way of letting people in.
- We are working on communications with emergency responders and other local sites (e.g., churches).
- How does installing accessible doors related to security concerns?
 - Grant is for any door; plan is for side doors
 - Working for how to reconcile this
- Actions this year
 - Met with CJP and done other research and planning
 - Have been keeping doors locked when school is in session
 - Have applied for a grant
 - We have gotten price quotes for a variety of security investments
 - Tom Rose has been meeting with Chief Nix (Sudbury Police) and the fire department
 - Have looked into “blue phone” direct lines and panic buttons - the Sudbury police have told us that these options are not available to us.
- Timeline: Agreed in October that developing a good security plan would take about 1 year

Capital Budget (Jim)

- Reviewed draft budget

- Will revise and then do Board vote right before Annual Meeting
- Adult Ed committee has been looking at making the library more appealing and useful; they may want capital budget to fund such improvements.

Attachments

- Beth El Safety presentation
- Budget FY20 for BOD Vote Summary 05.09.19
- Rabbi's report for May 2019
- Video conferencing proposal
- Youth and Family Education Report, May 2019