

NOTES

St. Luke's Public Policy & Environmental Action Team (PPEAT) meeting

Sunday, 3 May 2020

11:30 AM, via ZOOM

In attendance: Sarah Braik, Joyce Cassidy, Kathy Coughlan, Seth Nelson, Lin Parsons, Liz Parsons, Barbara Ryland, Charles Skold

Legislative and Diocesan Updates

Since John couldn't be with us, there were no updates from him this month. Kathy mentioned that John told members of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (in a ZOOM meeting the day before) that Bishop Brown and Bishop Deeley had recently met with Senator Collins.

Ongoing matters

- We discussed the list of healthy habits that Joyce drafted. She will edit the document to include some suggested actions and then re-circulate it to our group. From there, various ones of us will work on getting some publicity for this piece. Liz will contact the editor of the *West End News* and Sarah will contact St. Luke's communications person, Joan Carney.
- We reviewed the free screening and group discussion of "[The Human Element](#)" that took place late last month. The intended audience was Diocesan-wide but only St. Luke's was represented in the discussion. Seth suggested that we send more messages/emails dedicated to special events such as this and also that we publicize events more widely.
 - This can be part of the discussion that Sarah has with Joan about the healthy habits document.
- Liz updated the group on the status of the development proposal for the former Precious Blood Monastery site. The new owners are requesting a zoning change that would eliminate the remaining mature trees on the property in favor of surface parking. She and some neighbors are offering public comment to the Planning Board against the zoning change request. Landis Gabel from State Street UCC and the Western Prom is also helping with this.
 - Anyone interested in learning more and/or commenting should contact Liz.
- We agreed to delay doing anything else with the Carbon Tracker program for now.

New/Other matters arising & good information

- Seth offered to edit the letter from the Southern Maine Worker's Center about universal health care so as to make it more civil in tone. Once this draft is ready we will circulate it to the group for everyone to have a say about whether to send this from PPEAT to the Governor.
- Charles brought to our attention problems facing Maine's voting policies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has produced a letter to the editor making suggestions for how some of these problems could be resolved. A significant number of candidates for office this year are signing off on a letter to the Governor about this matter. We also talked about the importance of finding younger people to work the polls.
 - Here are links to sources Charles mentioned:

- [League of Women Voters petition here](#)
- [Maine Conservation Voters petition here](#)
- Voter information site: VoteInMaine.com
- Candidate Letter to Gov. Mills: [You can find the statement online here](#)
- The Portland Democratic Party will host a virtual candidate forum; date TBA. It doesn't appear that there is a central location or organized body coordinating candidate fora.
 - Sarah suggested that the one we've been planning to host on 26 September may need to be done online.