

Steering Committee Minutes
Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity
A Ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc. (EMP)
September 26, 2022, 8:00 p.m. at Perinton Presbyterian Church and via Zoom

Church Attendance: **Bethlehem Lutheran Church:** Mike Joyce; **Church of the Assumption:** Bill Lilly, Charlie Szilagy; **Church of the Resurrection:** Dan Killoran (Treasurer); **Fairport United Methodist Church:** Carlee Brown, Rick Hill (Co-Secretaries); **Perinton Presbyterian Church:** Mark Stevens (Chair); **St. John of Rochester Church:** Chris Hirschler, George Orosz, Jay Saylor; **Flower City Habitat for Humanity:** Ethel Duble, Shannon Megna, Laurie Streber

The meeting was called to order by Mark who asked us to introduce ourselves. We welcomed a new member of our steering committee--Jay Saylor who will work with George as coordinators for the church of St. John of Rochester. We welcomed two new staff members of Flower City Habitat for Humanity—Shannon Megna, who is assuming Ken Brayley’s role as Volunteer Engagement Coordinator and Laurie Streber, Director of Development and Marketing. We congratulated Ethel Duble on her promotion to Senior Vice President, Major Gifts and Planned Giving. It was reported that Ken Braley is now Manager, U.S. Rural for Habitat for Humanity International, serving rural Habitat affiliates throughout the USA.

Review of 871 Smith Street: The owner and her family are very pleased with their new home. The ramp makes it easier for her child who is in a wheelchair. The standard landscaping was provided, which includes leveling the yard and securing the backyard. Mark commented that the building process went very well using the new registration system, reserving days for groups, and opening reservations to the public. Ethel commended the turnout for the blessing at the beginning and dedication ceremony when the house was complete. Dan sent a check for \$500 to the new owner for our housewarming gift.

Treasurer’s report: Dan reported the following:

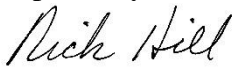
- **New Bank:** Since Fairport Savings and Loan was taken over by Evans Bank it was difficult to obtain records of transactions. After consulting with Mark, they moved the account to Canandaigua National Bank and are pleased with the service. It’s easy to look online to view account activity. Both Mark and Dan are authorized to sign checks.
- **New report format:** Dan designed the new report format to make it easier to follow. He invites comments and suggestions. There were some questions about contributions. For example, Fairport United Methodist Church contributed \$6,000 for two years. Dan will review. The asterisks indicate special such as gifts from someone from the church or employer matching gift programs.
- **We have a balance of approximately \$48,000**, the highest ever for the start of a building cycle. Since it was five years between the dedication of our last house in 2017 and 871 Smith Street in the spring of 2022, some of the extra funds reflect the fact that some churches continue to contribute each year.

Steering Committee leadership: Mark indicated that he’s willing to continue to serve as chair but invited anyone else who is interested in serving to contact him or Rick (a past chair) to discuss their experiences.

Flower City Habitat for Humanity proposal for faith groups: Mark reviewed the past process of raising \$65,000 to build every three years and how Flower City Habitat matched us with the Boeheim Foundation for the additional \$35,000 needed to build 871 Smith Street. Ethel discussed the challenges facing faith coalitions. Congregations are shrinking and potential volunteer builders are aging out. Some of the six faith groups have had difficulty raising money, even \$30,000 in three years. Flower City recommends that individual community-based faith groups in Monroe County consider working together to build one house collectively each year. Groups such as ours would maintain their own identity and continue to raise funds and recruit volunteer builders within our own communities. Instead of building every three years or more, we'd contribute about \$20,000/year and invite members of our churches to help build annually. We would still be able to reserve times for individual churches or groups from our community but wouldn't have to recruit that many volunteer builders in any one year. Ethel plans to have a meeting of the faith group leaders by the end of the year to discuss the possibilities. We reviewed our unique structure as part of a NYS nonprofit "member" corporation, each of our churches being members of the corporation. This allows us to approach our respective churches for fundraising and recruiting volunteers as one of the church's own ministries, not an outside group looking for support. We all agreed to discuss it within our churches. It might be easier for churches to budget financial support annually. It keeps the build in front of churches. Mark or Rick will present the proposal to the board of directors of Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc. We don't expect any resistance, just a matter of informing the board of directors of the change. There are five other faith-based community builder groups: Habitat Interfaith Partnership (Pittsford), Penfield, Brighton, Greece, and the Harvest Coalition (Henrietta and Brockport) which was struggling so paired with Thrivent for funds. Unfortunately, that grant ran out this year. While Flower City is asking churches to contribute \$100,000 to build a house, the reality is it costs closer to \$160,000 to \$200,000. Additional funds come from government grants and other sources.

Next meeting: Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Hill, Co-Secretary
Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity
a ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc.

Attachments: current roster, Treasurer's report