**Parking Lot Congregational Meeting October 29, 2023**

Opened at 10:04 am by James Cousins, Chairman of the Trustees

Had a quorum of 61 people in attendance

Here to discuss 1 item: Parking lot reconstruction and improvement

James mentioned Robert Order of Rules for questions and introduced Laurie Mittlefehldt, the Chair of the Parking Lot Project.

Laurie mentioned that the committee consisted of Ed Miller, Dave Dubbert and Ray Greiner and herself.

Laurie presented that they had started with an expansion of the parking lot but due to price, scaled it down to the one they are presenting today.

She said there would be draining of the back lot with drain tiles and downspouts being installed.

There will be a conduit under the lot on the east side for water and electricity for possible future use of the east side

The lot will be done properly and will be up to code

They will be working with the architecture company of Didonato Associates and Chris Gardner is the person that will be working directly with the committee.

The plan is to widen the parking lot 12 to 13 feet with wider parking, straight lines instead of diagonal for parking, 5 parking spots will be added and there will be 8 handicap lots in compliance with laws, there will be a sidewalk that will go entire way of the lot in the first row toward church but will not be able to redo all the sidewalks at this time du to cost

The committee chose the lowest bid quote as they appeared to be better at communication wit the committee (all 4 company quotes were pretty close to each other)

The architecture company will be present for 3-5 visits during the parking lot reconstruction

This is all weather dependent, will happen after March when it warms up some and they do not know how long it will actually take to complete

The Town of Tonawanda Board did approve this project as an improvement project

James Cousins opened the meeting to questions:

1. George Darrall asked where the congregation will be parking during this project? Laurie said we would have to go to on street parking and/or have one Sunday worship on-line instead but they are not sure of this yet. She did say the project will not interfere with Easter activities.
2. Pastor Duffy asked about congregation parking on the east side of lot but James said there are no sidewalks there and people would have to walk to church in the street so ideally that is not an option.
3. Pat Mudd asked if the committee had a cushion for unseen costs? James said they added a 20% cushion. Pat asked if that was enough and James replied that they usually did a 10% cushion but were advised to do twenty this time.
4. Pat asked if we had any handicap spots available for vans in the plans? Laurie said they have the designated regular handicap and assume that these new spots will accommodate van handicap parking. Pat also asked about widening the size of the parking spots to accommodate the larger SUVs and James said it was to expensive to make the spots larger.
5. Tim Schlegel asked if there would be a retention pond and James said it is not necessary since we are no longer doing the original lot expansion project. Tim also asked if we could make an addendum to put a sidewalk by the kitchen door to the lot to make it easier for people running dinners out to the lot during Community Dinners. James said he would investigate it but there would be no changes due to the higher cost already. Tim asked what the endowment cost was? James responded said it is 20% of the endowment. Tim also thanked the committee for all their hard work and time for this improvement to our church.
6. Tony Fuller asked how many parking spots will there be? Laurie responded with 78 parking spots and 8 handicap spots (we have 73 regular spots now). Tony also asked if the trees in front of the lot were being taken down by the project? Laurie responded that they will not be damaged during this project. Tony asked if we could fix the sidewalk in the front during this time as it is unlevel and Laurie said that some of it will be smoothed out.
7. Ted Camp mentioned this is a condition and not a judgement how the lot was done in the past. They did it at that time from what they knew and what codes were at that time and Laurie mentioned that everything done during this project will be up to todays’ codes.

James said this is a learning lesson as the lot done previously was not done correctly and the plan now is to do take the time and do it the right way this time.

1. Tim Schlegel asked if National Fuel Co or the pipe people are giving us issues with the project due to the easement? James said the easement allows us to do this project so the companies will be notified of the project and if there are issues.

The motion to close the debate was made by Barb Miller and seconded by Dave Dombrowski,

The motion to vote to move $425,000 from the endowment fund for this parking lot project was made by Sue Clark.

All attending congregational members approved. It passed.

The motion to close at 10:32 was made by Tim Schlegel and seconded by Sue House.

Respectively Submitted,

Debby Williams

Consistory Secretary