

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting  
May 15, 2016 [The Fifteenth Day of the Fifth Month].**

1. David Cadbury, Acting Clerk, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:35am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions and the agenda was approved by consensus. 23 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, and 14 participated in Meeting for Business.

2. The Minutes of the April Meeting for Business as previously posted on the web site and distributed to the Meeting by an e-mail link provided by Guy Marsden were approved by consensus.

**3. Committee Reports.**

A. **Environmental/Climate Change Group:** Bruce Rockwood presented a draft Minute seeking the meeting's support of solar energy in Maine that was prepared by Patty Seybold on behalf of the Meeting's *ad hoc* climate change discussion group and revised by him for consideration. After discussion and adjustment to its language the following Minute was approved by consensus:

***Minute for Midcoast Monthly Meeting***, Approved, 5/15/16.

**Midcoast Friends Meeting Solar Farm Minute**

*The Midcoast Friends Meeting supports sustainability, clean energy and conservation. We support the development of renewable energy solutions and deliberate action to move away from the primacy of fossil-fuels. To that end, we feel moved to explore the use of a part of the Meeting's property as a solar farm to generate electricity for the use of Maine residents. We hope that by contributing to the solar energy infrastructure in the State of Maine, we will be reducing residents' reliance on fossil fuels and providing for the needs of our shared community.*

Brewster Grace noted that our Meeting has signed on to the *Shared Quaker Statement on the Challenge of Climate Change*, which can be found at:

<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/shared-quaker-statement-facing-challenge-climate-change>

The proposed solar farm outlined in documents distributed by Guy Marsden at the April Meeting for Business and emailed to our list was then discussed at length. Karen Cadbury suggested that the finance committee would like to ensure due diligence was done on the proposal and comments made on it by Attorney Ed Collins. Deborah Haviland pointed out that not everyone has email to receive such documents. Brewster Grace asked for ensuring all members of the community have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal, and indicated he had some aesthetic concerns over the appearance of a solar farm. Guy Marsden pointed out members of the community need to come to Meeting for Business if they want to share in the process. Sue Rockwood pointed out on the map from ReVision Energy's proposal that the site was down slope at the far corner of the property, and would not interfere with the ability of people to see the Meeting as they drove up Belvedere Road. It would be sited on land that often needs to be mowed, and might improve our appearance, while the proposal would include mowing and maintaining the land by the solar farm investors. Guy Marsden indicated the site selected was optimal for

generating electricity and that if in the future at expiration of the lease the Meeting wished the panels to be relocated that could be easily done. Other points were raised and David Cadbury asked if there was consensus that Karen Cadbury and Guy Marsden coordinate a called Meeting for discussion of the solar farm proposal which would be open to all and which could ensure all questions were addressed and a report made to the next Meeting for Business. Guy will invite a spokesman from ReVision to attend and coordinate with Karen to find an appropriate day and time for this discussion. Bruce Rockwood pointed out that the earlier in the year a solar array can be installed, the more energy it will be able to generate, since surplus power in spring and summer serves as a credit in the winter. He also noted that the Maine P.U.C. may act to restrict net metering in Maine at any time, but if so would likely grandfather-in existing solar arrays or those under contract at the time of any changes, so we need to be mindful of this reality.

**B. Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness and Beedy Parker. There are concerns that after use of the Meeting by groups trash is not always taken out, and sometimes coffee grounds are thrown out rather than put in the compost container. Rachel suggested removing the trash can next to the coffee pot, and putting notices or signs asking people to "Please Recycle." Sue Rockwood asked that signage be done in a "friendly" manner.

**C. Ministry and Counsel.** Sue Rockwood said Alex Ulin will report to the Meeting next Sunday at 11:30 after the social period about her experience and travels last summer when she went to Nepal with Meeting support, and then had to leave and travel elsewhere after the earthquake. She hopes many will stay for Alex's presentation and slide show. A spokesperson from the NEYM Ministry and Counsel emailed Sue to thank us for our excellent and moving *State of the Society Report*. Brewster Grace had compiled the report from written submissions of committee clerks this year, and has our thanks. Sue has received a request for support of a LGBTQ "Thunderclap" project to have our Meeting join churches announce on their Facebook page that we are an open and welcoming community. Since we don't have a Facebook page or use Twitter, this may be an opportunity for us to consider adopting a Minute in support of the LGBTQ community and posting it in the Meeting House as we have done in our Minute on Racism. Sue reminded us that the Diaper Drive continues from Mother's Day to Father's Day, and that donations in cash or checks, or diapers, can be brought to the Meeting. The Diaper Drive is coordinated with nine local churches and is important because mothers on Mainecare or WIC do not otherwise get support to purchase disposable diapers, which are required by day care or other child care programs as a condition for leaving a child in care. This week was the first of the Midweek Silent Worship program at the Meeting to be held on Wednesdays from 0930 to 10am. Suzy Hallett has a leading to begin this effort and we hope members and attenders will take advantage of this new opportunity for worship.

**D. Pastoral Care.** Bruce Rockwood reported they met on Friday, April 22, 2016 at Carmen Lavertu's home. PC is concerned for several elderly individual friends, and in particular Jean Crawford asks to announce that Nancy Booth appreciates visitors to her at home, even though she finds it difficult to attend meeting regularly. Bruce adds here from the Pastoral Care April Minutes that we hope to contact and welcome in advance Friends who come during the summer. Our committee and the emergency fund committee are

short of members and would welcome new volunteers. The next meeting for worship with Claire Darrow is Wednesday June 1 at 10am at The Highlands in Topsham; please contact Deborah Haviland for further information. Jean asked that we wait until Willow is here in the summer for the committee to discuss the change of the name of the Emergency Fund Committee to the Emergency Response Committee, to reflect our actual situation, and whether to treat this as a function of Pastoral Care rather than a separate committee as it is presently. The next meeting of PC will be at Carmen's on Wednesday, June 15 at 10 a.m.

E. **MOPC.** Sue discussed the Outreach program at Woolman Hill she and Suzy Hallett attended, where over 50 people were present, half from outside NEYM. It was a wonderful experience and she and Suzy will prepare a more detailed report for a future presentation to the Meeting. The Meeting House will be used for Wabanaki Reach Ally Workshop on Saturday, June 18 from 9:30-4:00, aimed at engaging non-native allies in support of Native Maine peoples. The program is open to all. Space is limited and registration is required. Register by emailing [Barbara@mainewabanakireach.org](mailto:Barbara@mainewabanakireach.org) or calling 951-4874.

F. **Meeting House and Grounds.** Steve Gorry and Guy Marsden put in the screens and took down the winter window inserts today after the rise of Meeting. Alex Rockwood pointed out ants in the kitchen, which was addressed. Steve is working with our vendors to reduce mowing and plowing in order to help keep within our tight budget. He pointed out how helpful it was that Meeting folks helped clean up the meeting house after Anne Burt's film and potluck last week. He felt it was important that whenever we use the meeting house for a program, folks from the Meeting "linger" to sponge off the tables and sweep up crumbs to minimize extra work for our cleaner who comes in on Fridays. He will try to keep paths cleared and weeds down, while ensuring milkweed is protected to the extent possible to help Monarch butterflies. He and Guy plan to put out the benches after the rise of business meeting today. They got an estimate of \$5,000 to replace the cushions in the worship room, which seems steep, so they will seek alternate bids, and hope a grant can be found to fund this expense. Karen Cadbury pointed out grants are generally for capital expenses, so we will see what we can do.

G. **Finance Committee and Treasurer's Reports.** Karen Cadbury reviewed the draft budget for FY 2016-2017 that was distributed at the April Meeting for Business, pointing out the adjusted totals and conservative estimates concerning income and expenditures. The asset piece of the report will be submitted at the next meeting after we review reports from NEYM pooled funds. After discussion the budget was approved by consensus.

H. **CHIP:** Rachel McGinness presented information about the work of CHIP and its budget, and the job description for its director. Bruce Rockwood noted that we hoped when the fiscal situation improved we could restore Meeting funding for both CHIP and the local Foodbank. Sue Rockwood pointed out we can encourage members to individually support these programs, and the Meeting can share information about their activities.

I. **Other Business:** Mary Lord brought greetings from her visit to a meeting in Baltimore, and requested we provide a travel minute from the Meeting for her planned visit to Kansas in the summer. This was agreed to and Jim Matlack as clerk will need to sign it when he returns to Maine.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:05pm. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for June 19, 2016.  
Respectfully submitted,

*David Cadbury*, Acting Clerk, and

*Bruce L. Rockwood*, Recording Clerk