

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting  
October 18, 2015.**

1. Clerk James Matlack was unable to clerk the business meeting due to illness. At Jim's request David Cadbury called the meeting to order and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. The agenda was reviewed and approved with the addition of a report by the Library Committee. The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved with minor revisions.

**2. Committee Reports.**

*A. Finance Committee.* Bruce Rockwood, Clerk of the Finance Committee, reported that during the past month the Finance Committee had met with an accountant who had provided a financial review of the Meeting's accounting systems and financial policies. The review indicated our financial practices and procedures are in good order.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the year-end report for the previous fiscal year (2014/2015) and the current approved budget to identify ways to achieve a balanced budget. This review was initiated in part by an unexpected expenditure for a new well pump and the recognition that investment income is being used to balance our budget. David Cadbury, Treasurer, explained that the revised budget the finance committee was proposing could be viewed as a mid-course correction to the budget which the meeting had approved in May and noted in the June Newsletter.

Karen Cadbury stated that it was her intent to make the adjustment suggestions as transparent as possible. Karen distributed and reviewed the finance committee's proposed budget amendments for the general accounts on a line by line basis. Karen indicated that due to time constraints it was her intent to provide a separate presentation of the MOPC budget and the Meetings assets at the next business meeting.

Bruce added that we are already four months into the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and need to adopt the revised budget soon, so that we can bring our book keeping up to date and focus on ensuring a balanced budget for FY 2016-2017.

An emotionally charged discussion of the proposed amendments to the approved budget followed Karen's presentation. As the discussion proceeded it became clear that exchanges taking place had more to do with larger issues of discord within the meeting community than with the specifics of adjusting the budget. Recommendations were made about how to address the discord, including the idea of a called meeting with a facilitator, but it was decided to defer addressing that until there was greater clarity about how to proceed. Ministry and Counsel will take up developing a response to this situation. After further discussion of the proposed adjustments to the current budget the decision was made to accept the amended budget for the general operations account presented by the Finance Committee.

*B. Ministry and Counsel.* George Chappell reported that he and Jean Crawford hope to contact and meet with Bill and Pat Spock who have moved to Brunswick. Bruce

Rockwood noted that Susan Rockwood asked the Meeting to note that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Meeting House was well attended at the October 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, with the installation of the Peace Pole made by Steve Gorry.

*C. Pastoral Care.* Willow reported for the Pastoral Care Committee. The emergency fund as adjusted in the revised budget has been fully expended for this fiscal year. Bruce Rockwood reported that Cynthia Thomas had been in the hospital and was now home.

*D. Hospitality.* Rachel McGuinness reported that she will be purchasing new plastic bins for the social room to encourage recycling.

*E. Outreach and Peace Center*

Brewster Grace reported that the MOPC Program Committee is applying for funding for a series of speakers to discuss international peace issues and their local implications. Carmen Levertu and Andy Burt reported that the meeting had provided overnight accommodations and food for participants participating in the annual Peace Walk co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace. Walkers arrived from Rockland on Wednesday October 7 and left after breakfast Thursday morning. Carmen related that it had been a wonderful opportunity to meet with individuals who are active in Maine's peace movement.

*F. Library Committee.* Rachel McGinniss reported that the Library Committee is planning to cull duplicate books from the shelves to make room for new additions to the library. She asked for suggestions regarding what to do with the extra books. Karen Cadbury suggested a book sale.

**3. Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Cadbury*, Treasurer

*Bruce L. Rockwood*, Recording Clerk