

Midcoast Monthly Meeting
Minutes 15 October 2017

14 present Jim Matlack presiding, Ann Armstrong recording.

We began with a period of open worship followed by Mary Lord reading from the 1985 NEYM Faith and Practice on the meeting for business.

2017-10-1 Minutes from September were approved with no corrections.

2017-10-2 Pastoral Care announced that they are planning to hold a worship meeting with Carolyn Miller. Details will be in the E-news.

2017-10-3 Sue Rockwood announced that she is ordering a new and bigger coffee pot for Hospitality.

2017-10-4 Guy Marsden reported for House and Grounds. He washed the sign by the road and Sue has ordered a new MOPC sign to replace the one that had faded out. Guy has also installed new motion sensing solar powered lights for the ramp and steps to the front door that improve visibility and access after dark.

2017-10-5 Bruce Rockwood reported for the Finance Committee. They recently met with the accountant who was able to move our accounts to our own copy of QuickBooks for a total of \$120, (\$50 to purchase and \$70 to move the accounts.) The Friends Journal ad for the meeting has recently been reinstalled and will be charged to advertising. The categories under each committee were what the accountant wanted and so the expenses do not necessarily have to be divided up as shown in the budget. It is the total for the committee which is the important figure. The treasurer's report shows the cash on hand as of 10/14/2017 as \$19,592.26. When mailing contributions, please use the meeting mailing address: PO Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543.

2017-10-6 Friends revisited the recommendation of the joint meeting of Ministry and Counsel and Pastoral Care to have a naming committee for officers. We reconfirmed that committee membership will continue as sign ups. Friends suggested that we use the E-news to advertise committees and representatives to other organizations. Friends gave Ministry and Counsel wide latitude for nominating officers. They may consult with others as they feel led. Friends should pass their ideas on to members of Ministry and Counsel.

2017-10-7 Mary Lord reported on the recent Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Leadership Retreat. She was made aware of the fact that Midcoast is one of the larger meetings in the quarter and that the quarter is very important to all of the smaller meetings.

2017-10-8 Sue Rockwood reported for MOPC that the Diaper shed opening made the front page in the local paper. She has already received thank you cards, and checks, because of this service by Midcoast Meeting.

Sue also mentioned that 23 people, only 3 were Quakers, attended the meeting where Ayman Nijim spoke. That meeting was co-sponsored by the Senior College.

The Outreach and Peace Committee are considering showing the film on Quaker Boarding Schools for native Americans. Sue's hours, for the days she works, are posted as 10-2 which she sometimes shortens to allow her to come in to support evening programs. Sue will be away for the next several weekends. She is now serving on the NEYM Legacy Gift Committee which is currently discerning the next group of grants.

2017-10-9 Jim Matlack asked Friends if they were willing to send out the Vassalboro QM letter to the editor about the effort to extend Medicaid.

Dear Editor,

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting (VQM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) endorses the effort to extend Medicaid to over 70,000 low income Maine citizens who do not have health coverage.

We believe that it is our responsibility, as a caring nation, to provide access to adequate health care for the poor and the sick among us. Over 66,000 Maine registered voters petitioned to have Medicaid Expansion on the Nov. 7, 2017 ballot, and Maine's elected representatives in the state legislature voted for Medicaid Expansion six times. (Each time it was vetoed by the Governor, and not over-ridden). To survive financially our rural hospitals and clinics need all Maine adults and children to have their health care costs covered. Now is the time to require the state to expand Medicaid coverage through MaineCare.

Susan Davies, Liberty, Maine and Janet Hough, Edmunds, Maine
Co-Clerks,
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Friends approved doing this changing the appropriate names and signature on the letter.

2017-10-10 Jim mentioned that we still have part of the \$2,000 donation sent us this past year to designate for some social concern project. MOPC is still willing to receive ideas.

2017-10-11 Jim read parts of the message from the new general secretary of AFSC, Joyce Ajlouny.

Announcements made during business meeting:

The Ecumenical Food Pantry has sent an appeal for Thanksgiving baskets.

Vassalboro QM will meet at H.O.M.E. in Orland ME on Saturday November 4. Program will be "How we are led."

NEYM Ministry and Counsel will hold its annual retreat at Camp Mechuwanna in Winthrop ME Nov 10-12.

A nonpartisan program of the League of Women Voters will take place in Thomaston.