

Minutes

Midcoast Friends Meeting for Business, Damariscotta, Maine
Fourth Month 15, 2007

Clerk Pete Haviland opened the session with a reading from Rufus Jones in the VQM Newsletter, followed by moments of silence. Fifteen members and attenders were present. Deborah Haviland was asked to take minutes for the recording clerk who was out of town.

Minutes - It was noted the minutes approved at the 3-18-07 meeting had been posted on the bulletin board. The clerk was asked if there was anything in the minutes that should be referred to. There was not.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report was given by Bill Spock, clerk of the finance committee. He went over the report which included the first draft of the budget for 2007-2008. There have been a few increases for committees and Friends contributions. The total budget of \$17350 (an increase of \$1600 from last year) is matched by a projected increase in contributions. Meetinghouse and Grounds have been asked to discuss mowing costs for next year with Finance.

The draft of the Pledge Letter, to be sent out in June, was discussed. It was noted by one that it seemed heavy and was missing gratefulness and appreciation for contributions of last year. The Finance Committee will make changes and then approve the final letter.

Ministry & Counsel: Linda Cote-Small reported. There had been no meeting in March and the committee will meet next week. A draft of the State of Society Report will be brought to the May Monthly Meeting. Linda reminded us of the Retreat on Quaker Testimonies on Saturday April 21. 9:30 -4. There will probably be 10 participants. Linda thanked Jean Crawford for her work on the press release. M&C has decided to run 4 events/year, with a future focus on more spiritual Quaker orientation. The June 10 event featuring Poetry has been cancelled.

Gifts & Leadings: Carmen Lavertu reported that Deborah Haviland had expressed a leading to be on the G&L committee. Carmen also asked that names for the Steering Committee for the Peace Center be handled in G&L. It was suggested that there be community people on the committee, along with M&C people. **Meeting agreed to these two proposals.**

Peace & Social Concerns: Brewster Grace reported from the last P&SC meeting. The Peace Center:

- the peace center is a concern that has been with the Meeting for some time and should be given careful consideration.
- an initial steering committee to launch it should come from the meeting committees most concerned – P&SC and M&C – as nominated by G&L.
- there should be a “bottom up” approach to establishing the center. Midcoast Friends should be asked to identify in their communities likeminded groups and their

representatives. These representatives should be invited to brainstorming meetings at Midcoast to consider possible issues and activities. **Meeting approved that suggestions for names of community organizations and representatives should be given to G&L.** - if the community response is not sustainable, the matter should be laid down until other ways to launch a center are found.

The issues of most concern to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee is American militarism and how it dominates our communities. Careful consideration should be given to the leadership of the committee since many members are already very committed in other activities.

The P&SC Committee will meet on the 1st Sunday of the month at the rise of Meeting. All members/attenders are invited.

Old Business: It was noted that **the Directory** needs to be updated. This was done last by Pat Spock and she said that she would move forward with it. It was suggested that pages of the old directory be spread on a bulletin board so they can be easily read and changes suggested, including additions. Friends agreed.

New Business: Jim Matlack has told us that group of teenagers from the UU Church in Rockland would like to visit our Meeting on Sunday, May 13. Jim will be in charge of talking to them before and after Meeting for Worship. Carmen will communicate with Claire Darrow about this since it is also a Work Hour Day and more refreshments will be needed.

No further business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned, planning to meet next on Sunday, May 20 following worship. Please bring a bag lunch. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Haviland, Clerk

Deborah Haviland, Recording Clerk pro-tem