

Minutes  
Midcoast Monthly Meeting, Damariscotta  
Fourth Month 26, 2009

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a reading followed by moments of silence and expressions of gratitude. Seventeen Friends were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – A letter from Joyce Young expressed regret she can no longer attend meeting due to sensitivities to chemical fragrances. The meeting agreed to have a brief item in the Newsletter to raise Friends' awareness of this issue. Anne Spencer will write the item, making use of pamphlets Joyce enclosed. A letter from Claire Darrow expressed gratitude for notes, calls, messages and flowers from the Meeting during her recent hospitalization. Friends were happy to hear Claire is progressing well. A letter from Thomas and Lisa Steele-Maley requested creation of a clearness committee to explore leadings about starting a new school. Members of the clearness committee are Deborah Haviland, Peter Haviland, Karen Cadbury, David Cadbury, Linda Cote-Small and Holly Baldwin. Others are encouraged to express interest in serving on the committee.

Finance/Treasurer – Paul Diamond presented “Details of Regular Outflows June 1, 2008 – April 25, 2009” and “Financial Report for the period from June 1, 2008 – April 25, 2009”. The Finance Committee anticipates lower year-end balances than usual as it drafts the 2009-2010 budget. Committees are reminded to submit budget requests toward preparation of this budget. The new swing set is likely to increase insurance costs. There will probably be unanticipated repairs to the property and costs related to the expected memorial stone policy.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Counsel – Pete Haviland reported. A committee member will remind Friends committed to draft memorial minutes for George Sparks, Lee Coolidge and Sally Wood the committee is hoping to receive them. Some committees still need to submit to Ministry & Counsel write-ups for the 2008 State of Society Report. Pete suggested we may need to have a worship-sharing hour to bring forth other ideas from the meeting. Pete has agreed to draft a Query about political expression as contrasted to social or religious expression as appropriate for vocal ministry. The committee continues to consider issues relating to what makes membership in our Meeting or in the Society of Friends important to us, and why or when should an attender decide to seek membership. The committee would like to meet jointly with Pastoral Care. (Note: Pastoral Care members present agreed to meet jointly with Ministry & Counsel on Thursday, May 7, 5:30 p.m.)

Meetinghouse & Grounds – Paul Diamond expressed regret present circumstances prevent his continuing to clerk this committee. It is hoped workdays will be organized.

Bill Hallett and George Waldman have agreed to co-clerk care of the grounds. Claire Darrow will advise. Paul will write a brief item for the Newsletter outlining supplies Friends might donate to meet regular meetinghouse needs.

Peace & Social Concerns – The question of the future of the committee and the possibility of combining it (and attending funds) with the Peace Center Steering Committee was placed on the agenda for the May meeting for business. Does the meeting have human resources sufficient for both committees? Information on a presentation about Haiti at the meetinghouse by Partners in Health founder Paul Farmer costing approximately \$300 was referred to the Peace Center Steering Committee.

Religious Education – Rachel MacGuinness reported a company has been found to provide a swing set. The donor will be named on a plaque.

Old Business

Volunteers to close meeting on a monthly basis, or find a volunteer to do so, are needed. May will be covered by Jim Matlack; volunteers for June, July, August are needed.

Two members attended midyear sessions in Portland April 17-19.

Kate Nordstrom and husband Aaron visited the all-purpose room to see if a storage rack for mugs can be built to fit. The meeting requested Aaron build a 36”x36” rack, with lip, to hold 54 mugs. The decision on placement was postponed until the actual rack can be seen in the space. A Friend suggested we add wings to either end of the serving table to obviate need for the smaller table.

Carmen Lavertu will write an item for the newsletter on Alice Lacy’s new book about their Portugese water dog, Paco. It was suggested we send an autographed copy to Sidwell Friends Lower School Library.

Deb will discuss with Pat Spock possibilities for a new Directory or an insert to update the present Directory. A new version of the Handbook is slowly progressing.

Deb will contact Linda Cote-Small about whether we’ll go ahead with the film on Iran scheduled for May 15. It will be open to the public. Iranian type finger food will be served.

A Friend spoke of the need to do more outreach and attract more people to meeting for worship. The idea of “inquirers meetings” was suggested. Last Fall Gifts & Leadings agreed an Outreach Committee was not needed and it was not necessary to add another committee to our commitments. The matter will be referred to Ministry & Counsel.

No further business coming before the meeting it adjourned following moments of silence planning to meet next on Sunday, May 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk