

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

APRIL 15, 2012

After a period of silent worship Clerk David Cadbury opened the meeting with twenty-one Friends present. The Minutes of the March Meeting for Business were approved.

News was shared that Mary Plum—an attender at meeting—has been accepted to attend Haverford College. Friends agreed to provide Mary with a copy of Faith and Practice with the best wishes of the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Bill Spock reported on a recent meeting of the Finance Committee with the assistance of Treasurer Martin Imm. Looking to the next budget cycle, it was emphasized that enlarged contributions will be needed to replace the rental income from Coastal Kids Daycare in this year's budget.

Martin Imm reviewed in detail the current budget numbers and the proposed budget for 2012-2013. At present the meeting is under-spending and contribution levels remain steady but, as noted, additional resources will be needed in the coming year. Members will be urged to increase their regular donations and other revenue sources will be explored. The possibility of shifting funds from the Reserve Fund will also be considered. All areas of discretionary spending should be carefully assessed. The projected budget for 2012-2013 anticipates an income shortfall of \$2,440. The detailed budget is to be approved at the May Meeting for Business.

The meeting's annual contribution to New England Yearly Meeting was queried. It was suggested that some Friends might donate to NEYM through the meeting, thus helping to cover the annual assessment of roughly \$100 per member. Concern was expressed that Midcoast Meeting should maintain full payment of the funds due to NEYM so as to support their programs and outreach and to remain in good standing with the larger body of Friends.

Further discussion followed on the possibility of creating an endowment fund for the meeting. Finance Committee gave extended consideration to this option and prepared background documents on the proposal. It became clear that any such endowment fund would be modest at the start, would be super-vised by a committee of volunteers rather than a management company, and might well be held in the common funds administered by New England Yearly Meeting. A draw of 3% or 4% per year on such a fund would be possible while still growing the principal in the fund. Friends were urged to read the background materials and ponder this issue in preparation for the May Meeting for Business.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS On behalf of the committee George Waldman asked whether Friends might agree to seek the services of a part-time gardener to assist in the maintenance of the grounds and plantings. Volunteer work-days have not been adequate to cover all the relevant tasks. After discussion it was agreed that George would explore whether the man who is contracted to do the mowing might add some regular hours for "gardening" endeavors at a relatively modest cost. A report is expected at the May meeting for business.

PEACE CENTER Brewster Grace summarized recent discussions in the Steering Committee. Three areas are currently under consideration for program development.

- 1) A Film Series on “Women, War, and Peace.”
- 2) Ongoing attention to Current Examples of Non-Violent Resistance as embodied in the Occupy Movement and the “Arab Spring.”
- 3) A Project on Environment and Food which would make clear the links between Climate Change and Food Production and Food/Water Shortages

Brewster and Andy Burt will visit several Maine-based experts to discuss these issues and to assess how best to set up a seminar series devoted to these concerns. A larger planning group will be necessary if this project goes forward. Additional funds will also be sought through grants and other sources.

Karen Cadbury raised the longstanding concern for meeting outreach to the local community. Some Peace Center events have been co-sponsored by CONA with augmented attendance. Many Friends share the wish that the work of Quakers be better known and that younger attenders be drawn to the meeting. Yet the dispersion of our membership and the rural location of the meeting house make outreach more challenging. Karen asked whether hiring a part-time outreach coordinator would be a feasible and worthwhile endeavor. Could such a person (if found) make the meeting more visible and

attractive to local residents and generate more use of the meeting house? A small committee for oversight of this proposal was needed beyond the attention given by the Peace Center Steering Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS A query was raised about making small changes and corrections on the meeting web-site. It was agreed that Guy Marsden be trusted to exercise his best judgment about such small changes. Guy will consult and seek clearance only when he judges the proposed change to be a substantial one or directly involving a policy position of the meeting.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

David Cadbury, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk