

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

APRIL 21, 2013

Clerk David Cadbury began the meeting with a period of silent worship. Thirteen Friends were present. The MINUTES of the March Business Meeting were approved. George Chappell reported that his Creative Writing class for Veterans now meets at the Camden Library.

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the meeting membership carefully prepared by Diane Kirkman was distributed and discussed. The most notable feature was a reduction of thirteen adult members largely due to clarifying the wishes of non-resident former members.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL has prepared a State of the Meeting report to be forwarded in due course to New England Yearly Meeting. This text will be in the next newsletter after which it will be discussed at the next Business Meeting. A series of after-meeting discussion sessions on the writings of Rufus Jones has been planned for the fourth Sundays in coming months.

HOSPITALITY The small group who oversee the regular purchase of supplies for the after-meeting "social hour" are seeking a simpler, more reliable way to buy these supplies. After discussion of debit cards and cash advances, it was agreed that members of the Hospitality and Finance Committees would meet together to decide what arrangement would work best.

Martin Imm reported for the finance committee. He circulated a Budget Tally Sheet showing current year balances as well as the initial proposed budget for 2013-2014. Given the expectation of somewhat reduced resources, some budget lines have been trimmed. The overall financial situation of the meeting is sound. A concern was raised as to whether the New England Yearly Meeting Joint Fund which holds the meeting reserves was administered with sensitivity to avoiding investments in fossil fuel production. Inquiries will be made and a report given at the next Business Meeting.

OUTREACH Karen Cadbury reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee seeking to clarify the feasibility of having a part-time paid outreach coordinator to enhance interactions with the local community as well as to arrange for effective uses of the meeting house. Karen provided clear documentation on the committee's thinking with regard to Priority Activities to be facilitated, needed skills to be listed in a Job Description, and projected budget requirements. It was proposed to attempt a six-month trial period. Sufficient funds will have to be raised. A Job Description, a hiring process, and an Oversight Committee on behalf of the meeting will also be required. After some discussion of fund-raising possibilities approval was given to go forward along the lines suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Carmen Lavertu spoke briefly about the upcoming Quaterly Meeting to be held on May 4th at the South China Friends Meeting House with a focus on Rufus Jones. Attention will also be given to the proposal that Quakers have a table at the Common Ground Fair in September.

It was noted that a major report on torture carried out by the U.S. Government in the wake of the 9/11 attacks was issued last week. This report documents in great detail the full extent of the behavior which violated both U.S. laws and international standards with regard to Torture. Leaders in the Bush Administration were deeply involved up to and including the President.

NEXT MEETING FOR BUSINESS: *MAY 19th*

David Cadbury, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk