

MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING MEETING FOR BUSINESS --- APRIL 20, 2014

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Clerk David Cadbury welcomed fourteen Friends. The Minutes for the March Meeting for Business were reviewed. An amendment was made in the third paragraph as follows:

Deb reported that she has maintained a book with Memorial Minutes for members who have died and another book with copies of Marriage Certificates for weddings conducted under the care of Midcoast Meeting.

The Minutes were then approved.

It was agreed that the Clerks will exercise their judgment as to which e-mail messages that are sent to them should be circulated more widely to members of the meeting.

Friends were reminded that Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will be held in Blue Hill on May 3rd. After business sessions a live performance of The Trial of Anne Hutchinson will be staged.

CLEAN ELECTIONS INITIATIVE In the absence of Carmen Lavertu, Jim Matlack presented an ongoing concern for the excess influence of money on our election processes. (Meeting members made this issue a top priority in our response to FCNL In February.) A draft text of a minute proposed for Acadia Friends Meeting was presented for possible approval and joint submission to the upcoming Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting for approval and wider circulation.

Lengthy discussion followed. Some Friends felt that the factual context for the proposed text was not fully clarified. There was hesitation in urging the collection of signatures to enable a public referendum vote on public funding for the Maine state elections. Others felt that the meeting was already on record in support of the core concerns expressed in the draft minute as well as the need for adequate funding for the Clean Elections Law in Maine. Gathering signatures is an essential task in getting such a funding issue on the ballot. While some felt that the matter should be laid over to the May meeting for business, others noted the tight schedule involved in putting the matter before Quarterly Meeting and for getting sufficient signatures to put the issue on the November ballot.

Two amendments were made to the draft text. The final version is given below:

We believe that the electoral process is too greatly influenced by contributions from big donors and vested interests to point that our democracy is becoming a plutocracy. Recent Supreme Court decisions have made limitations on the excess influence of money more difficult.

---We support severe limits on campaign contributions at all levels.

---We support the ability of the electorate to know the names of contributors.

---We support a citizen initiative to increase the possibility of clean elections in Miane.

---We urge all individuals to help gather signatures for this effort in the coming months.

In this form the draft Minute was approved.

The clerk note that a letter of appreciation has been received from the town of Damariscotta acknowledging the meeting's annual payment in lieu of taxes.

FINANCE Bill Spock presented and discussed the Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee. He expected that the target of \$12,000 in contributions for the current fiscal year would be met. Bill noted the complex relationship emerging between the meeting budget and that of the new Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). While the meeting is providing some initial support for the launch of MOPC, the hope of adding new members holds the promise of added revenues to the meeting.

Martin Imm then presented a detailed budget sheet for the current year (10 month totals) with provisional entries for next year's budget. Explanation and discussion of various features in the budget sheet followed. It was agreed that this year's solicitation letter to members will suggest a 5% increase in individual contributions. The budget will be considered for approval at the May Meeting for Business.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL Sue Rockwood said that Linda Murray has given up her membership. Her role in tending the garden is unresolved. It was noted that the Meeting Archives include custody of Up-to-date records on membership, marriages, and deaths. Diane Kirkman is the Meeting Recorder who also keeps statistical counts on current membership.

OUTREACH Karen Cadbury presented and reviewed a two-year budget for the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). Roughly 60% of the necessary funds have been raised. Some figures were given as best estimates. This detailed budget was provided for the information of Friends but not for approval. MOPC will operate with a Steering Committee and a Program Committee. Sue Rockwood has already begun her role a part-time Coordinator of MOPC.

Sue reminded Friends that on May 4th after regular meeting for worship there will be a widely-publicized Inaugural Event for MOPC at the Meeting House—an Ice-Cream/Fruit Social with activities for children. All are invited from the meeting and from the community.

Jim Matlack reported that plastic sliders have been installed on all the benches in the worship room.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

David Cadbury, Clerk

James Matlack, Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING FOR BUSINESS --- MAY 18th