

MINUTES --- MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS APRIL 19th, 2015

Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 19 in attendance, while Guy Marsden worked outside on the grounds for which we are grateful. The agenda was reviewed and approved without amendment. The Minutes of the March Meeting for Business were reviewed and approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hospitality. Rachel McGinness noted that she is the only member of the committee. Sue Rockwood said that she and Suzy Hallett help coordinating weekly snacks and the monthly potluck for families.

Pastoral Care. Jean Crawford noted she was happy with the quality of the Listening Workshop which seven people participated in the previous day for four hours of deep listening on a nice sunny day. They hope to do it again. The committee has received a letter of appreciation in relation to the request for special financial assistance, which indicated that the special need is no longer present. A meeting for worship with Claire Darrow is planned for April 29. James Matlack asked after George Chappell, and Deborah Haviland said she spoke with him yesterday, that he just got back and is doing well and plans to attend the next Pastoral Care meeting this coming Wednesday.

Recorder/Archivist/Data-Entry. Diane Kirkman wears several hats for the Meeting, In preparation for reports to New England Yearly Meeting she has requested information on the current Membership List of the Meeting, as well as "active attenders," average number of children at First Day, and participation in the periodic Nonviolent Communication Workshops. A copy of the current membership list, 33 plus those identified as 'non-resident,' was circulated to those present. The Meeting Directory includes "active attenders" and there is a larger mailing list as well. Sue Rockwood reported an average of 6 to 8 at the Nonviolent Communication Workshops, and a high of 9 children at the monthly family programs. Sue also indicated that Ministry and Counsel would review the distinctions between the duties of Meeting Recorder, maintaining data-entry, and the role of Archivist, which Diane has long maintained for us. This is distinct from the work of the Archive Committee.

Pat Spock has asked to be relieved of the duty of maintaining the Membership Data-base which includes using software to prepare mailing labels for the annual pledge letter and other Meeting mailings from time to time. She can share the current data and software with anyone with a computer able to upload and make use of the program and data. Ministry and Counsel will endeavor to identify a replacement for Pat.

Library: The Committee will meet in late April and report back in May.

Finance. Bill Spock first presented an overview of the 2014-2015 financial picture of the Meeting, and indicated we are in "a reasonably good position" due in part to an increase in rental income. He thanked Sue Rockwood for her work in this area as part of MOPC. Bill then thanked Karen Cadbury and Tom Hagan for all their help in working on the next budget for June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016 with Martin Imm.

Martin has asked to step-down as Assistant Treasurer at the end of the current fiscal year. Based on his business and financial experience, the Finance Committee has nominated Tom Hagan to serve as the next Assistant Treasurer. Jean Crawford asked if the clerks of the various Meeting Committees should first meet to discuss nominations of this sort, but Bill Spock and Karen Cadbury indicated that was not the case. James Matlack suggested that after presenting Tom's credentials at this Meeting and thanking him for his work so far, that the Meeting would put approval of his nomination on the agenda for the May business meeting.

It was noted that Assistant Treasurer is a more technical position and not currently an officer of the Corporation of the Meeting. Karen Cadbury suggested that it requires certain skill sets. With his M.I.T. degree and business and financial experience she said Tom is well suited to this important position.

Jean Crawford asked if the post has a term. Bill Spock said that in a small meeting like ours it is often hard to find people able as well as willing to serve, so the term is open-ended as long as we are happy with their work. Martin Imm asked what guidance we have for this nomination process. As this is a topic we discussed in the fall business meetings when current officers were nominated and approved, Sue Rockwood briefly read from the *Monthly Meeting Handbook*, and indicated that Ministry and Counsel would again gather up and report back to the May Meeting for Business a brief written summary of what our past and continuing process is. She also pointed out that the membership of various committees is posted on the bulletin board, was in the newsletter, and is on the web site.

Bruce Rockwood noted that the Finance Committee had prepared a description of the job of Assistant Treasurer at a meeting last year, and asked that this included in the next edition of our handbook. Deborah Haviland pointed out that since she had first served as treasurer the role has become more complex, requiring the need for an assistant treasurer. Poly Ulin suggested that when nominations are to be made, brief biographies be circulated in writing in advance of the meeting for their discussion. Bill Spock reiterated it is difficult for small meetings to get all offices filled. The clerk welcomed the promised report from Ministry & Counsel on the nominating process. Tom Hagan's nomination as Assistant Treasurer will be on the next month's agenda. Strong thanks and appreciation were expressed for the yeoman service of Martin Imm in this role, which will continue through the conclusion of the current budget process and fiscal year.

Bill Spock then explained that the Finance Committee at its meeting this past Friday had discussed initiating a process of planned giving and some sort of endowment for the meeting. As a beginning it was agreed to establish a task-force to gather information and make recommendations to the Finance Committee and the Meeting for Business. Karen Cadbury has agreed to chair this task force. Volunteers were invited to serve on this task force who would work with Karen to prepare a review and timely report back to the Meeting on how to proceed. The creation of such a task-force was approved. Those interested in becoming involved should talk to Karen Cadbury.

Bill Spock then indicated he would draft the pledge letter to send out in June after we complete the budget at our May meeting. There will also be the usual December request for contributions to MOPC. The June pledge letter will reference the specific need to replenish the emergency fund as part of the budget process.

Martin Imm then distributed the draft 2015-2016 budget which he had prepared in large type on two pages to make it easier to read and digest. A few corrections in the draft figures were spotted and corrected in this version of the budget (Draft 2.6!). Martin asked members and committees to submit to him any adjustment in their budget requests/needs for next year so that he could take them into account in revising the budget for consideration at the May Meeting for Business. Sue Rockwood indicated that the First Day School would need at a minimum \$50 or \$100 for supplies and equipment. She has acquired a potty and step-stool for one of the bathrooms for use of children. Karen Cadbury said that grants would be sought to help fund a First Day School teacher in the future. The "special collection" in March for the Food Bank will be treated in the final budget in a listing similar to the "emergency appeal" previously noted. Deb Haviland indicated she had just received the money and deposited it, and it would be reflected in the next draft.

James Matlack indicated that the final version of the Meeting Budget for 2015-2016 would be on the agenda for approval at the May Meeting for Business.

Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood asked that committees send to M&C their summaries of their activities for the calendar year 2014 so that M&C can prepare its "State of the Meeting" report to the New England Yearly Meeting. M&C has been meeting regularly. In the near future they will discuss the structure of the Meeting Committees, descriptions of officer's roles, and the nominating process concerns mentioned today. Suggestions are also being solicited for the best way to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Meetinghouse this summer and to honor those involved in its construction.

Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). Karen Cadbury reviewed the current draft of the MOPC budget. MOPC is listed separately as a Meeting project with its own distinct budget in order to qualify for the numerous grants which have been or will be sought. Such grants require separate budget reports. Efforts will continue to develop various funding sources and to build the program. A two year grant totaling \$3000 was received from the Obadiah Brown Fund. A grant request has been made to the Shoemaker Fund. Karen has worked closely with Martin Imm in preparing the MOPC budget. Sue Rockwood has done a great job on rentals. The goal is to make MOPC self-sustaining with Meeting and rental support.

Karen described the two MOPC committees, one for oversight and one for programs. An active roster of programs and groups use the Meeting House on a regular basis. The family programs linked to our monthly potluck have been helpful in increasing attendance of families with small children. Our building is available for small weddings but our no-alcohol policy limits that potential source of rental income. Sue Rockwood has prepared a flier which we can offer to potential renters. The long-range possibility of an expansion wing of the building was mentioned which would enhance the program space available children as well as for young adult activities such as contra-dancing.

Rachel McGinness asked if Sue Rockwood was now handling the calendar for scheduling use of the Meetinghouse, so that committees could know when it was available. Sue explained that the calendar is updated on the web as well as on the bulletin board as programs and meetings are proposed and finalized. She asked to be notified when committees plan meetings so she can put them on the bulletin board and on the web calendar for the Meeting.

Karen summarized by pointing out that MOPC was set up initially as a two year pilot project with a report due at the end of 2015. New England Yearly Meeting has requested a report on MOPC for other meetings to consider but such a report must wait until the review and reports to Midcoast Meeting has been completed. On behalf of the meeting the clerk expressed deep appreciation for the work Sue Rockwood and Karen Cadbury are doing with the MOPC project.

Meeting House and Grounds. No report.

Special Concerns. Diane Dicranian remains interested in speaking wherever possible regarding the New Underground Railway to help LBGTO people escape from violence in Uganda. The Clerk reported on a Minute circulating in Connecticut on climate change. Andy Burt mentioned that next Sunday she will be showing a short film she has produced on "The New Abolitionists" about Maine activists working against climate change. James Matlack then reported that NEYM, along with New York and PYM, are staging on-going discussion of the "Doctrine of Discovery" under which European explorers claimed the lands of the Native Peoples during the colonial era as well as and its implications for us today.

Other Business. James Matlack as Clerk of the revived Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP) reported on their activities. Special efforts are made to respond to issues of concern to the Wabanaki (tribal peoples in Maine), especially in support of the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Commission focused upon past abuse of Native American children along with endeavors to enhance the operations of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission. Unfortunately, neither political party takes tribal sovereignty and related issues seriously. Governor LePage has not filled state-appointed positions on MITSC. The legal rights of the tribes and the mandate of MITSC are not given the respect and compliance that they deserve.

Closing Worship. Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:50pm.

The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, May 17, 2015. [David Cadbury will serve as Clerk.]

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Matlack, Clerk
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk