

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
December 20, 2015.**

1. Clerk James Matlack opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:30am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions, and Patty Seybold asked to be added to "other business." The agenda was approved by consensus.
2. The Minutes of the October and November Meetings for Business were posted on the web site and one correction from Jean Crawford was made to the November minutes, and then both minutes were approved by consensus.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Pastoral Care. Judith Imm reported on the book sale being planned for the end of January to raise funds for the Emergency Fund, and asked in particular for donations of children's books. Carmen Lavertu reported on the December 17th Listening Session and indicated that they would continue on the last Thursday of each Month. The next Listening Session will be Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 3:30-5pm in the Meeting House, and is noted on the Meeting's web calendar.

B. Joint Meeting of Emergency Fund Committee and Finance Committee report. The EFC and FC met at the Meeting House on Wednesday, December 9th from 2:30 to 3:45pm. Bruce Rockwood reported that Jean Crawford, George Chappell, David and Karen Cadbury, and James Matlack were in attendance. It was agreed that the EMC should seek to raise funds through the book sale idea and that any funds raised by the EMC that are not disbursed would be rolled over to the next fiscal year. No emergencies are pending but they are unpredictable. As the Meeting approved retaining part of the 4 Winds Development Fund loan repayment in our checking account for contingencies or to be applied in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year budget, it was agreed that up to \$500 of that could be made use of in the event of an emergency by the EMC, but if more than \$500 is required it would be taken to the Meeting for Business since we need to be conservative in our resources while planning for the next fiscal year.

C. Finance Committee. Bruce Rockwood, Clerk, asked that in the new year, each committee consider its financial requirements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year so that the Finance Committee can begin to put together a sustainable budget, with discussions over the course of the spring so that we can be in consensus for adopting a budget at the May Meeting for Business. David Cadbury, Treasurer, distributed a one page document summarizing the issues addressed so far this year, the revised 2015-2016 budget, and a six month review of pledges and actual contributions to date compared with previous years. We will take a hard look at our budget and expenditures and endeavor to be transparent with the meeting and its committees in developing the next budget. James Matlack, Clerk of the Meeting, indicated that the report was received with thanks.

D. Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood reminded the Meeting that sign-up sheets for committees remain available and urged people to sign up according to their leadings. A worship sharing session is planned for late January after the end of the holiday season.

She and Suzy Hallett have been planning and conducting monthly children's programs on the Sundays when potluck is also held, and feel that the potential for more regular participation of children with their families in the meeting may pose a dilemma for staffing the program. She asked that the Meeting consider how to make available childcare so that parents or one or two meeting members do not have to forgo Meeting for Worship whenever child care is required. She asked about a sign-up for child care, or whether the Meeting would support paying someone to provide it as needed. She and Suzy have been talking with parents about a curriculum for young children a parent would like to see developed, which would include expanding the children's knowledge of basic religious stories and cultural literacy. Bruce Rockwood pointed out that there may also be a need for a curriculum for new members and attenders along the lines of the "Quaker 101" program, and Susan Rockwood indicated she would put this concern on the Ministry and Counsel agenda for next month as well. Patty Seybold supported the suggestion of having a sign-up sheet of people willing to provide childcare on any given Sunday if required, in the manner used to get sign-ups for refreshments. It was agreed to try this approach and see if it would meet our needs. Susan Rockwood pointed out that we may require people doing regular childcare to get confidential criminal background screenings for youth workers and that NEYM offers to pay for this. This would be done at the state level. When child care is provided, two people need to be working at any given time.

E. *Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC)*. Karen Cadbury explained the history of the Meeting's support for the creation of MOPC, reviewed its two year budget, and distributed a list of more than 30 programs or activities engaged in by MOPC since its creation. She indicated she had held off on applying for certain Quaker grants to support MOPC until this two year review report was made today, to see if the Meeting wished to continue support of MOPC. Sue Rockwood has been available to arrange and schedule rentals and supervise their implementation on a regular basis, and many speakers, films, courses and visitors have come to the Meeting as a result. Carmen Lavertu praised the work of MOPC in engaging the broader community. The goal of getting younger families and children in attendance remains a work in progress, and suggestions were made for developing additional programs to engage families in the Meeting. There is an opportunity for us to send someone to an Outreach Program of NEYM being held in April. It was pointed out that Sue Rockwood conducts many MOPC activities outside her 8 hours of scheduled time at the Meeting House, and Martin Imm suggested we urge others to volunteer to help with the work of MOPC. James Matlack suggested that the Meeting for Business affirm its continued support of MOPC as an activity of the Meeting going forward and this was agreed to by consensus. Anne Burt spoke of the affirmative reaching out of the Meeting through MOPC, acting as a beacon of light in our community, as an important activity which we should continue to pursue.

F. *Meeting House and Grounds*. No report. Carmen Lavertu noted that Guy Marsden had spent time at the Meeting House on Thursday fixing a toilet and replacing lights, and the Meeting for Business noted its thanks for his continued work on keeping us going.

G. *Hospitality*. Rachel McGinness. No report.

H. ***Other Business/Concerns***. Clerk Jim Matlack distributed copies of the Meeting's letter published in local newspapers concerning support for receiving Syrian refugees. We have received the annual request for a state of the society report from the NEYM and he has referred it to Ministry and Counsel. Patty Seybold then asked that the Meeting support continued periodic dialog on the climate change issue which we have previously conducted in response to the Pope's Encyclical on climate change. We could talk about how local action can be taken in response to the climate challenge. She suggested that we conduct climate discussions for those interested after the rise of meeting and normal social period on the second Sunday of each month. This was supported by the Meeting for those who would be interested, and would not necessarily entail bringing a bag lunch if the discussions were for a half hour or forty-five minutes, although this could be decided by the participants. Carmen Lavertu mentioned that she regularly attends Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting (VQM) which meets for four Saturdays a year plus one long-weekend, and while she has been the Meeting's representative to VQM, she urged others to consider attending VQM and perhaps stepping into the role of Meeting representative. Jim Matlack indicated he would inquire into whether others would be interested in taking on this role.

4. ***Closing Worship*** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:15pm. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2016.

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