

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Fifteen Friends gathered as Clerk Guy Marsden opened the meeting with a period of silent worship.

Prior to entering the regular Agenda, DIANE DICRANIAN gave an oral report on her recent experiences at the U.S./Mexico Border near San Diego. Along with a few hundred faith leaders she walked down the beachfront in an attempt to reach and offer prayers at the existing Wall on the border. That wall is thirty feet high and is fronted with a line of concertina barbed wire on the US side. As the group approached, a solid phalanx of heavily armed border patrol personnel blocked their way. In successive pushes the faith leaders were driven back away from the Wall. A number were roughly taken into custody. In the end the group abandoned the effort and held a prayer session on the beach. The overall witness was intended to dramatize the problems and harsh behaviors toward migrants on the border. An [article in The Guardian](#) captured the essence of the event.

Minutes for the November 18th Business Meeting were approved. Friends were encouraged to complete sign-ups for committee rosters for the coming year.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS Guy Marsden described his follow-up steps after the recent energy audit of the meeting house. Due to a report of oil fumes by Jack Banta (the cleaner) he installed of a carbon monoxide detector in the lobby as a precaution, he also sealed up some cracks that could vent fumes from the basement. The view was warmly endorsed that “we are spoiled by Guy’s work” in and around the meeting house.

LIBRARY Daniel Hall asked support for a project that would put a list of books in the Midcoast library on “[LibraryThing](#)” as a searchable data base. Support was expressed to the extent that the listing will be public but no decision was yet made to allow non-members to check out books.

HOSPITALITY Rachel McGinness noted the sparse sign-ups for this function which she has faithfully carried out in recent years. There was discussion about who should start the coffee machine. A check list for the last person out of the building is already posted. A similar check list has been developed for the “greeter” each week.

MIDCOAST OUTREACH AND PEACE CENTER Sue Rockwood noted the following coming events:

----On January 13th Lisa Steele-Maley will lead a program focused on her book “Without a Map: A Caregiver’s Journey through the Wilderness of Heart and Mind” about helping her father navigate the details of a life interrupted by dementia.

----Plans are being made for weekend events around the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Some of them will be opportunities for service.

----On February 2nd Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will meet at Midcoast. An engaging program has been planned around climate change and sustainability using comedy and video in addition to regular business.

----NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING PERMANENT BOARD will gather at Midcoast on May11th. Additional volunteers are needed to help with Food, Hospitality, and Child Care.

FINANCE Bruce Rockwood is at work on the budget for the next fiscal year. At present the meeting is in good financial health. A MOPC appeal letter drafted by Sue Rockwood has gone out to members who have not made a specific donation.

The meeting closed with a period of silent reflection.

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk