

Minutes
Midcoast Monthly Meeting, Damariscotta
Second Month 17, 2008

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a poem by Rufus Jones and moments of silence. Twenty Friends were present, several offering expressions of gratitude. **Minutes** of the previous month were **approved** with a minor correction.

Correspondence – The clerk reported two items of special interest. Paul Diamond’s letter requesting membership in this meeting was welcomed and referred to Ministry & Counsel. A letter from Vincent Frazetta expressing interest in discussing the possibility of membership was also welcomed and referred to Ministry & Counsel.

Statistical Report – Diane Kirkman’s written report was welcomed and reviewed. The omission of Andy Burt’s name from the membership list will be reported to Diane. The report will eventually be sent to New England Yearly Meeting.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – Paul Diamond reported bad weather forced postponement of the committee meeting. He introduced a draft checklist of supplies for the meetinghouse. He asked Friends to make use of a suggestion book for wants and needs of meetinghouse and grounds. It can be found on the small desk in the far right corner of the vestibule.

Finance – Bill Spock submitted a written report. Over the past five years annual financial contributions have decreased 21%. The number of families contributing has decreased from 56 to 43. The committee is preparing for recommendation to the meeting for business a policy on reserves and an updated capital budgeting process. Proposals that are new at monthly meeting and that imply unbudgeted expenditures should go through one of the committees, if necessary, and then back to Finance before coming to the Meeting again for a decision. Moreover, proposals arising from monthly meeting discussions that include offers of financial backing should do the same.

Ministry & Counsel – Linda Cote-Small and Pete Haviland reported. The committee’s request that the March monthly meeting begin with approximately one-half hour of worship sharing on the state of the meeting during 2007 was **approved**. This will be in preparation for the annual **State of the Society** Report to the yearly meeting. The committee has received two responses to its invitation for proposals for a panel on Quakerism. Plans for second hour conversations continue: Jim Matlack has offered to talk about Quakerism and Karen Cadbury has offered to talk about mentoring. Friends **approved** a revision to the memorial minute for Jerry Wood as requested by Jerry’s family. The question of a memorial minute for Lee Coolidge, a faithful attender, was raised.

Peace & Social Concerns – Carmen Lavertu reported. Bad weather forced postponement of the committee meeting. The committee will consider 1) co-sponsorship at the meetinghouse of a film series with the Civil Rights Team of Lincoln Academy, and 2)

commemoration at the meetinghouse of the 5th anniversary (March 19) of the war in Iraq. The Meeting approved the film series with the Lincoln Academy Civil Rights Team if the committee goes forward with this. Nancy Booth, the meeting's representative to CHIP (Coastal Housing Improvement Program), reported a critical need in the community for assistance with heating fuel expenses.

Religious Education – Karen Cadbury and Sally Tukey reported. The committee is making progress with adapting a portion of the all purpose room for young people and with finding teachers to offer First Day School four times per month.

Hospitality – Anne Spencer reported. Friends will please sign up to provide First Day refreshments.

Peace Center – Brewster Grace reported on a meeting of the Steering Committee (all are welcome) that established preliminary areas of concentration: 1) delineation of responsibilities of the Peace Center from those of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, 2) climate change as a source of conflict, 3) countering militarism in schools and generally in American culture, 4) providing Alternatives to Violence training in the community and 5) creating a community rapid response team to be prepared in case of national emergency.

Old Business

I – At the November monthly meeting Gifts & Leadings reported several Friends had expressed interest in outreach to the broader community. How shall we follow up on this? The Peace Center will be one natural way and any committee can also plan a program that includes the public. An ad hoc committee (Linda Cote-Small, Deb Haviland & Karen Cadbury) will recommend revisions/additions to the Handbook for a new edition, which may take under consideration the question of outreach. . The Meeting agreed to put Outreach on the agenda for the April Monthly Meeting. A Friend noted that epistles are a traditional form of outreach between meetings and the greater public. The question of whether letters to the editor from a committee need first to be approved by the monthly meeting will be on the agenda for March or April.

II – FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) has requested that by the end of April we help prioritize Friends lobbying work for the 111th Congress (2009-2010). The meeting decided to schedule a worship sharing or discussion on FCNL priorities during April.

No further business or concerns coming before the meeting it adjourned following moments of silence, planning to meet next on **Sunday, March 16**. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk

