

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Thirteen Friends were gathered when Clerk Guy Marsden asked for an opening period of silent worship. The meeting agenda was reviewed and the MINUTES of the December Business Meeting were approved.

Jim Matlack reported for MINISTRY AND COUNSEL. In order to assist in the preparation of the annual STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT clerks of all meeting committees were requested to draft a short summary of activities during 2019 and to send it to Jim. Members of the Clearness Committee for Elisa Hawkes' application for membership spoke favorably in support of her request after which Elisa was warmly approved as a new member of the meeting.

Diane Dicranian reported on the recent Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting and the Minute submitted by Midcoast Meeting regarding New England Yearly Meeting's relationship with Friends United Meeting. That Minute expressed long-standing concern over FUM's policies affecting sexual identity issues. It urged that NEYM withdraw from FUM if no progress was evident in eliminating discriminatory policies by Summer Sessions. In the end consideration of the Minute was laid over to the next Quarterly Meeting session to meet in Blue Hill on May 2nd. Friends were urged to attend this meeting. In addition the Minute from Midcoast will be sent to the Clerk of NEYM with a request that it be circulated to all NEYM local meetings. This step had previously been taken with a similar Minute from Wellesley Meeting in support of the same concerns.

Barb Gibson reported that the Emergency Fund had a balance of \$1,300 and that the oversight committee was working on a specific concern.

For MIDCOAST OUTREACH AND PEACE COMMITTEE Sue Rockwood noted that three Senior College courses now rent space at the meeting house. In addition the local Unitarians also held a gathering in our space. Out Maine will hold an overnight event at the meeting house on February 28th

FINANCE Barb Gibson provided detailed charts that tracked the budgets of the meeting and MOPC. Particular changes were noted. Additional contributions to MOPC are needed to meet budgetary expectations. Meeting reserves are held in the New England Pooled Funds account. Investments are screened for social responsibility. The rate of return in recent years compares favorably with other investment plans. Meeting committees are asked to prepare their budgets for the coming fiscal year. Any special needs or variations from the current year should be identified. Appreciation was expressed for Barb's labors with meeting financial documents.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS Guy Marsden replaced several failed ballasts and tubes in the overhead lights in the social room. He also built a new rack for pamphlets to be mounted under the lobby bulletin board to replace the rotating wire rack. Guy was thanked for his continued work to maintain and enhance the meeting house.

Attention was drawn to photographs of the meeting house taken by Jean Schnell. They are part of an ongoing series called "Framing the Light" in which she documents Meeting houses in New England. These may be viewed at: <https://www.jeanschnell.com>

Molly Willcox made a presentation about her TALKING TREE project which features structured small group discussion about environmental concerns designed to elicit dialog and to share deeply felt experiences and personal expressions of love for the Earth. After discussion it was decided to hold a Talking Tree session after meeting for worship on Sunday, March 22 in lieu of the Listening Session. A fuller description of the program and a reminder of the date will be included in a forthcoming issue of the Newsletter.