

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS JANUARY 20, 2013

Eighteen Friends gathered for an opening period of silent worship. David Cadbury served as Clerk. The agenda was reviewed and the MINUTES of the Business Meeting on November 18, 2012 were approved.

Ministry and Counsel Mallory Waldman reported on queries sent to members of the meeting who have been infrequent attenders. She also announced that the new Roster of Committee Members will be posted to the website and will appear in the newsletter.

Karen Cadbury announced that the Outreach group will meet soon. She also reported that the scheme to lay in supplies to provide refreshments after Sunday worship has been working well. Sign-ups are still needed to assure a person is able to take responsibility for each Sunday.

Letters of appreciation were received from New England Yearly Meeting, Holly Baldwin, and CHIP.

George Chappell spoke briefly about the effort to fund a new building for the Portland Friends School in Cumberland. Although the public stage of fund raising is not yet under way, Friends can seek more information or send early contributions to:

Portland Friends School, 1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105

Pat Spock is preparing a new Meeting Directory. Members should check their entry on the large sheets laid out on the credenza each Sunday to provide corrections if necessary.

In light of frequent unsolicited requests for financial assistance from the meeting questions were raised about how such requests should be handled—e.g. should they at least be acknowledged? What about the competition between giving from the meeting budget and the donations to worthy causes by individual members? Since Martin Imm was absent, a follow-up discussion was laid over to the next business meeting.

New England Yearly Meeting has received a very large sum from the sale of a building. A discernment process is under way to determine both how to decide to what purposes these funds might be devoted as well as to assess the range of potential recipients with a view to final disposition of the funds. A small group will seek to discern our meeting's best response to the NEYM query in this matter. The members are David and Karen Cadbury, Suzy Hallett, and Sue Rockwood.

In light of potential attendance at Sunday meeting by families with small children, volunteers are needed to work out arrangements for suitable "Sunday School" or child care to be provided on two Sundays each month.

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will gather on Saturday, February 2nd, in Belfast. A presentation on Restorative Justice will be on the program.

The regular pot-luck lunch on Sunday, February 3rd will be expanded to serve as a shared meal with as many as thirty visiting Unitarian-Universalists [!!] Please notify Suzy Hallatt or Karen Cadbury if you plan to take part in the meal and can bring an ample dish to share.

New England Yearly Meeting will hold a session in Portland on March 23rd. Carmen Lavertu will learn and share information about this gathering.

Jim Matlack reported on the Annual Meetings of the Friends Committee on National Legislation held in November. A larger-than-usual turnout of Friends took part in lobby visits to staff in the offices of House Members and Senators. The focus of these visits was to urge that cuts in the military budget be included in any overall budget/deficit/debt deal to be made in following weeks. Six Friends from Maine engaged in these visits. One of the highlights of the FCNL meetings was the presentation of the Edward Snyder Award to Senator Richard Lugar. Legislative Priorities for the upcoming Congress were also approved.

Members of the meeting are asked to join in a discernment process that will result in revision of the foundational FCNL Policy Statement. As a member of the FCNL Policy Committee, Jim Matlack will lead a discussion on FCNL Policy Concerns on Sunday, March 10th at the rise of meeting for worship.

NEXT MEETING FOR BUSINESS: FEBRUARY 17th