

Minutes (pending approval in September)

Midcoast Monthly Meeting

Damariscotta, Seventh Month, 2008

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a reading from Faith and Practice by Parker Palmer on “the crossing point” between inward seeking and outward acts. This was followed by moments of silence. There were eleven in attendance.

The minutes of Sixth month were read and approved.

The clerk reviewed a minute from the Fifth month meeting which set up an ad hoc committee to study funding for special causes (worthy needs). The clerk asked for ideas for fund raising to be communicated to Karen Cadbury, Linda Cote-Small, or Carmen Lavertu.

The Finance Committee recommendations for “in-kind contributions” was reviewed as published in the current newsletter. The meeting feels that it is a good and sensible summary of current practice and agrees to continue without changes.

Treasurer’s Report - Paul Diamond reported that there is a good response to the pledge request letter. A small amount of interest has been received from the loan made to the Four-Directions capital fund. This is a five-year loan for \$10,000 made in 2005. The solar panels for the meetinghouse roof have been ordered. The installation date is not yet scheduled.

Meetinghouse and Grounds - Nancy Booth would like to donate a large horse chestnut tree to planted on the Meetinghouse grounds. The committee will review the landscape plan and make arrangements with Nancy to dig it up and transport it. A workday has not been scheduled but may be needed in July. Pete Haviland reported that the doors to the social room were blown back on a windy day, and damage was done to the bracket for the door closer. These two doors need a special block to hold them open and he will follow up on providing these.

Ministry and Counsel - Peter Haviland reported for the committee. The minor changes suggested for the Loraine Beckerman Schmidt memorial minute have been completed and the minute is ready to go to Quarterly Meeting. The Clerk will send it to VQM.

The State of Society report for 2007 is not forthcoming. The process for composing the report has not been helpful. The committee requests that, since it is now late for submitting it to Quarterly and Yearly meetings, it be omitted this time. Discussion followed. The meeting decided to not to write a report for the year 2007 and to combine the years 2007 and 2008 in the State of Society for 2008. A brief note to that effect will be sent to the clerks of Vassalboro Quarter and New England Yearly meetings.

We are reminded of the program “Living Quakerism: Now and in the Future” with invited Friends from Beacon Hill and Hartford meetings on the 22nd of July.

The committee is considering a revision of the “Welcome to the Meeting” brochure. A collection of brochures from other Meetings is available to garner ideas for improving ours.

The committee continues to ponder the reading of queries during Meeting for Worship, with the view of supplementing the Faith and Practice list. A query on vocal ministry is especially wanted.

Pastoral Care - Carmen Lavertu reported. Gerard Geary is late arriving in Midcoast Maine this summer because of health issues. A dear friend of the Meeting, Sally Cartwright, has suffered the tragic loss of a grandson. Deb Haviland stays in touch with Henry Beerits at Cove's Edge. We hold these ones in the Light of Love and Comfort.

Peace and Social Concerns - The committee will meet on the 27th . Their agenda lists Friends' response to election issues with emphasis on addressing militarism and continued seeking for a way to help Haitian people. The reading group meets to discuss HUMAN SMOKE and they are thinking of inviting the author, Nicholson Baker of South Berwick, to come to the Midcoast to discuss the reactions to his book. Carmen has a video tape of his interview on PBS and will arrange to show it to interested Friends.

Nancy reminded us of a workday and fund-raising event on 9/6 at CHIP. Concerns are mounting for the fuel needs of the community this coming winter.

Nancy has resigned from FCMPP and has notified the clerk of that committee. Midcoast is well represented in that group by Ernie Foust, Jim Matlack, and Brewster Grace.

Religious Education - The committee is not scheduling regular programs this summer. Suzy Hallett and Nancy Booth offered to be with children who may show up. The greeter will let them know if children come.

Hospitality - No one has volunteered to cover the Potluck lunch in August (to see that coffee is made and to be there for cleanup and closing the Meetinghouse). The Potluck lunch is very popular and we trust that Friends present on 8/3 will see that those tasks are performed.

Peace Center - There is no report. Planning for an event to celebrate the solar panels is on hold, awaiting the installation. The next meeting will be on 9/14.

New Business - An attender, Suzy Hallett, brought up the question of obtaining a transfer of her membership from St. Louis Monthly Meeting in St. Louis Missouri to Midcoast Monthly Meeting. She has not been successful in getting in touch with them. It was suggested that she check with NEYM or the Missouri Yearly Meeting archives for more detailed information.

Nancy Booth will close Meeting on August 3 and 10. The clerk will seek volunteers for the remaining dates.

Susan St. John invites us to Small Point at Morse Mountain again this year. The date is August 31. Notices and directions will be provided.

There will be no meeting for business in the Eighth month. The next meeting for business will be September 21, 2008 at the rise of meeting.

There being no further business before the Meeting, we adjourned with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk
Carmen Lavertu, Recording clerk, pro tem

