

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
July19, 2015.**

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:35am and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 14 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Committee Reports.

A. **Finance.** Bruce Rockwood, Clerk of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday July 16, 2015 from 1 to 3:15pm here at the Meeting House. We had a useful discussion, and appreciated the participation of Stephen Gorry who volunteered to sit in on our discussion and helped us understand the work of the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Based on the review of the financial records by the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, we report the following:

(1.) The final report for FY 2015 (which ended May 31, 2015) must wait until we receive it in final form at our next committee meeting; we intend to make it available at September's Meeting for Business.

(2.) Records indicate that some committee expenses last year exceeded their planned budgets, and even with greater than budgeted contributions actually received, for which we are grateful, we still ran an overall deficit. This is not just due to the depletion of the emergency fund, although replenishing that fund has put a dent in our planned FY2016 budget.

(3.) We are asking the clerks of the committees and the emergency fund to review their priorities, criteria, actual expenditures and expected needs for the current (2016) FY over the summer, and get us updated information in order to help us bring forward a revised budget in September.

(4.) We are **recommending to the Meeting for Business today** that we roll over only half of the Four Winds Development Fund investment which is now up for a five year renewal. This means we would roll over \$5000 to the fund for another five years, and ask for the other \$5000 to be returned to the Meeting, to help fill in apparent overruns from last year and be better prepared to deal with snow plowing, repairs, the need for a contingency line item in the budget, and other potential expenses in the new fiscal year.

After discussion the July Meeting for Business approved this recommendation and the Treasurer is authorized to take the steps necessary to carry this out.

(5.) The 2016FY budget approved by the Meeting for this year at the May Meeting for Business did not include the replenishment of the emergency fund as part of the "above the line" portion of the budget. It also assumed a 10% increase of contributions over actual contributions last year, which were themselves higher than what we had expected. We are taking this into account as we work on preparing a revised budget so we have a clearer picture going forward. The Finance Committee will hold its next meeting in early August. All are welcome and we will post the date on the Meeting's online calendar (<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>) once we set a date and time.

B. **Ministry and Counsel.** Brewster Grace read aloud the "State of the Society Report for 2014" which was previously circulated to the Meeting by email. After a few minor editorial corrections the Meeting approved the report, and asked that it be forwarded to

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting. Carmen Lavertu indicated the Quarter would like it before their August meeting, and Brewster Grace agreed to coordinate with Carmen in forwarding the report. The meeting thanked Brewster for his excellent work in helping prepare this report.

C. Pastoral Care. Willow Rowntree reported on the success of the listening program which had been initiated this winter. Pastoral Care would like to continue offering this program, and to plan a training session for people to be prepared for participation. The program includes four hours of deep listening without responses. They appreciate the support of Ministry and Counsel in continuing this program and invite all to participate, with a view to possibly making it a regular program of the meeting. Willow also reported on behalf of Deborah Haviland that a meeting for worship is planned in Topsham with Claire Darrow and her family on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 10am, and all are welcome. See <http://www.highlandsrc.com/index.cfm/menu/page/stub/Memory-Support> for directions and contact Deborah Haviland for further questions.

D. Meeting House and Grounds. Guy Marsden noted the new mowing pattern implemented to make the Meeting House more clearly visible from the road. Stephen Gorry has tested washing the walls of the worship room, and we may wash them rather than repaint.

E. Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). Susan Rockwood reported that the talk by Wendy Batson planned for August 4th has been postponed and her talk as part of our Humanitarian Crises series will be rescheduled for the fall. Susan reported that a last minute film showing on Alaskan native peoples and their concerns over oil drilling in the Alaskan wildlife reserve was arranged in just the past week, was well publicized by the sponsors and resulted in a rental this Thursday night at which 30 people attended. She also received notice of the annual Peace Walk planned for this October, which some of our members have participated in previously. One phase of the peace walk will be from Rockland to Damariscotta, and the participants are looking for a place to prepare a dinner and sleep over "in a local church" and she asked if the meeting were willing to support making the meeting house available for this purpose. The walk begins in Ellsworth, Maine on October 9 and ends in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on October 24. A variety of peace groups are involved and the contact persons include Starr Gilmartin and Bruce Gagnon. There was discussion and the meeting agreed that this was consistent with our purpose as a meeting and approved this proposal. Sue Rockwood, Beedy Parker, Anne Burt and Carmen Lavertu agreed to help arrange this and coordinate with the Peace Walkers.

3. Other Business/Special Concerns. Jim Matlack reported that advance documents for the Annual Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting are available from their web site at: <http://neym.org/sessions/ad-docs> . He also reported that John Eben Lacy had passed away, and that a memorial is being planned by his family in Lexington, Mass. on September 19, 2015. Carmen Lavertu commented that she enjoyed last Sunday's discussion of the Pope's Climate Change Encyclical arranged by Patty Seybold that was held after the rise of meeting. About 14 people participated and she hopes we can do it

again, perhaps once a month. Guy Marsden indicated no definite date had been set but we will see if it can be arranged to be held again.

4. **Closing Worship.** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:45 pm. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, September 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matlack, Clerk

Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk