

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
July 17, 2016 [The Seventeenth Day of the Seventh Month]. *DRAFT #1***

1. James Matlack, Clerk, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:35am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions and after additions the agenda was approved by consensus. 20 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, and 10 participated in Meeting for Business.

2. The Minutes of the May and June Meetings for Business were approved after incorporating additions suggested by Martin Imm for the June Minutes.

3. Committee Reports.

A. **Pastoral Care.** Jean Crawford reported that a former attender in the 1990s, Martha Shepherd, passed away July 1, 2016. She had lived in Bremen and more recently in Bath. The next listening session will be after the social hour next Sunday, July 24th. Anyone interested in learning about listening sessions can contact Jean or Willow Rowntree.

B. **Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness reported that Beedy Parker was pleased that people seem to be removing their trash and recycling after use of the Meeting House, and making use of the compost for mulch. Rachel asked whether anyone could volunteer to help plan a social event or picnic at the Meeting as was discussed at the June Meeting for Business. After discussion it was agreed that summer presents many personal and family conflicts, and that we should work to find an opportunity for a social event in September.

C. **C.H.I.P.** Rachel McGinness reported that as C.H.I.P. is not planning its own fund-raising supper at Savory Maine until the Spring of 2017 or later, we might plan on proceeding with the fund-raiser for C.H.I.P. we discussed in June for the fall to be held here. Andy Burt has offered to help plan this as a soup-social, and Rachel felt once we can set a date, perhaps in September, that she can contact the C.H.I.P. board so that their members can promote it. Rachel also asked if the Meeting's space could if asked be used for the monthly C.H.I.P. board meetings. The other churches have offered space in the past, and the time of 2pm on Thursdays has proved difficult for some participants. Sue Rockwood explained we would need to coordinate this with our calendar and renters, and that while if the Meeting sponsored this and did not charge normal rent, the cost of snow plowing is \$60 a time, and we generally ask that those not paying rent agree to liberal cancellation of meetings if there is snow. Rachel said she would see whether the C.H.I.P. board would be interested in holding board meetings here, and would coordinate with Sue if so to see what works on our calendar giving other uses of the Meeting House.

D. **Meeting House and Grounds.** Guy Marsden was not present. Stephen Gorry sent a note which Jim Matlock read explaining the decision to adjust the twice yearly mowing schedule so that the summer mow will be August 1, to allow for the lupines to bloom and nesting birds in the fields to complete the rearing of their chicks.

E. **Finance Committee and Treasurer Reports.** Treasurer David Cadbury was unable to attend due to illness, but Jim Matlock had visited him this morning and brought with him

the final 2015-2016FY report for the Meeting, with footnotes and a separate financial report on investments and transfers during the past FY. The financial report shows in the right hand column the 2016-2017FY budget adopted in May, with a few corrections and typos adjusted, including the fact that the budget included \$100 in Meeting contributions to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, which was included in the April draft but inadvertently omitted in the May document. Deborah Haviland asked if this was a change in the budget, and Bruce Rockwood explained no, it was the correction of an inadvertent omission. Bruce explained further that as we have spent more than a year developing a budget for the Meeting that is not in deficit, donations from the Meeting contained in the past FY budget were only paid in May, 2016, once we were confident that there was money to make those payments as a result of the second pledge reminder letter we sent out in March. We have updated the mailing list to address concerns that some people were omitted from the last pledge letter mailings, and will send out the pledge letter for the current FY in September. Depending on how that goes, we can revisit the Meeting restoring or increasing donations to C.H.I.P. and the Food Pantry next April or May if there are sufficient funds. The Finance Committee supports these valuable local organizations, but our mandate is to provide the Meeting with a balanced budget. We encourage individuals to make contributions to these and other fine organizations. David has expressed concern about the additional bookkeeping expense of monitoring "pass through" donations made to these organizations by members. Bruce feels there may be a solution to this concern and we can discuss this at the next Finance Committee Meeting before our next Meeting for Business in September. George Chappell mentioned that with David's help he had set up auto-check payments for meeting his monthly pledge payments to the Meeting, and suggested that others explore this method of planning and making their monthly pledges automatically. Most banks and credit unions can arrange a check to be sent automatically to the Meeting's bank account. Martin Imm indicated he had questions about the financial reports that he wished to discuss with David at a later date, but wished here to thank David for the effort and work he has put into this challenging task, which we all agreed was much appreciated.

F. *Ministry and Counsel.* Jim Matlock distributed the letter published in several local newspapers in response to the Orlando shootings that was authorized by the June Meeting for Business and composed by an *ad hoc* committee of the Meeting and signed by several members on behalf of the Meeting. It has already been posted to the NEYM web site and picked up as model language by another Meeting in New York. The Meeting for Business agreed that the process used to produce this letter in a timely manner was appropriate and welcome. Bruce Rockwood noted the several recent events since Orlando and expressed the concern that these letters may become increasingly required, which was very discouraging.

G. *MOPC.* Sue Rockwood reported that she and Karen Cadbury would attend the NEYM Annual Meeting in Castleton, Vermont on August 6-7, 2016 on behalf of MOPC and the Meeting to present on two panels concerning the work of the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center. She will be working on the presentation over the next few weeks and welcomes suggestions for this project.

H. **Other Business:** (1.) George Chappell raised the possibility of using the Meeting House as a venue for the weekly meeting of a nonprofit, if he could persuade the District Office of this organization that we would be an appropriate site. Sue Rockwood pointed out the same snow plowing cost/liberal cancellation expectations the Meeting has for such uses, and that the donations by attenders to these weekly meetings would be less than the normal rent we receive for use of the facilities. Jim Matlock asked if there was a consensus that the Meeting was open to this possibility, providing there was a transparent, identified line of communication between the organization and the Meeting, and accountability for the use of the Meeting's space. This was agreed, with the understanding that George would explore this further and coordinate potential scheduling with Sue Rockwood on behalf of the MOPC and the Meeting.

(2.) Anne Burt circulated a draft letter as a petition to the Maine Public Utilities Commission (P.U.C.) asking the P.U.C. not to take any steps to end net metering for solar panels in Maine pending the ability of the legislature to revisit this issue and develop a comprehensive energy policy for Maine in 2017. This would be consistent with our Climate Change Minute adopted at the May Meeting for Business. Deborah Haviland asked for clarification of the concept of net metering, and this was addressed. After discussion it was agreed that Jim Matlock could sign the letter and submit it to the P.U.C. on behalf of the Meeting, as apparently comments of this sort have to be submitted in a few days to be considered.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:10pm. As there is no August business meeting, the next Meeting for Business is scheduled for September 18th, 2016 (Eighteenth Day, Eighth Month).

Respectfully submitted,
James Matlack, Clerk, and
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk