

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS
JULY 16, 2017**

After brief opening worship, the AGENDA for the meeting was reviewed. MINUTES of the Meeting for Business held on June 18th were approved.

PASTORAL CARE Willow Rowntree reminded Friends that a meeting for worship will be held for and with Claire Darrow at Highlands at 10 a.m. on July 26th.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS Guy Marsden noted that he recently threw the switches to turn on the Solar Array to feed electrical power into the grid. A gathering will be held in the future for the members of the cooperative that invested in the Solar Farm. Guy raised the possibility of buying a new refrigerator for the Meeting House. The current model is old and uses far more electricity than a modern unit. Discussion of the proposed purchase was generally favorable. It was decided to lay over the decision to the September Business Meeting. Several attenders said that they would donate to a fund for the purchase of a new unit. Guy will attach a meter to the present refrigerator to track its electrical consumption level

FINANCE Patty Seybold noted that the meeting budget was amended to include \$250 for travel costs. Excellent monthly reports are coming from the new accountant. In the future quarterly reports on the budget will be made to Business Meeting. The annual Pledge Letter is being prepared.

MIDCOAST OUTREACH AND PEACE CENTER Sue Rockwood noted that frequent use of the meeting house by various groups creates a busy pace for her oversight. She also reminded Friends that a grant was received from the *NEYM Legacy Fund* to provide \$3,000 over two years in support of MOPC programs. A report with visual aids should be made to NEYM Annual Sessions in August. Sue asked for someone who will attend to carry the materials to Annual Sessions. (Andy Burt is a likely prospect)

Sue also outlined the success and scale of operation for the local *Diaper Drive* which will likely reach 10,000 units distributed in the coming year. Purchases are made through the meeting tax-exempt status. A better place for storage of the diapers between weekly distributions is a critical need. A donor is willing to cover the cost of a small structure to provide such storage. It was proposed that such a structure might be erected on the back edge of the meeting house parking area. Guy Marsden would assist/coordinate any such construction. After discussion the proposal was approved but implementation was delayed pending further notice to Friends through the on-line Weekly News to solicit responses from those not in attendance at this meeting. If strong objection is registered, the project will remain on hold. Otherwise Guy, Sue Rockwood, and Suzie Hallett will consult with others to go forward with construction of a storage shed not later than August 1st.

Brewster Grace reported on recent activities *People United Against Racism*, a local coalition of church leaders with whom MOPC members have been coordinating. Program developments will focus on relevant issues in relation to Islamophobia, Racial Discrimination, and anti-Immigrant attitudes. The Friends involved were encouraged to continue their liaison endeavors with PUAR.

A concern was also raised that the meeting might also make additional efforts to raise up concerns of Maine Indians, possibly through showing appropriate films at the meeting house or hosting another training session with Wabanaki Reach. The opening of the Maine Center for Peace and Community in Bath was also noted.

OTHER CONCERNS Jim Matlack reminded Friends that a 100th Birthday Celebration for Trudy Seybold will be held at the Meeting House on August 20st. He distributed the advance notices for the Vassalboro Quarter Fall Gathering to be held at Friends Camp on September 8th-9th-10th. A sheet was available describing talks in August by George Rishmawi, a Christian Palestinian activist. He will speak in Blue Hill on August 7th and in Bath the next night.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

[NOTE: Following the regular Meeting for Business a short *Annual Meeting of the Midcoast Friends Corporation* was conducted.]

NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN AUGUST

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 16th