

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS
JULY 18, 2021

Clerk Diane DiCranian opened the zoom session of the Meeting for the Conduct of Business with fourteen Friends gathered in silent worship.

After meeting in person for worship in the meeting house last Sunday, the issue to be discussed was how future meetings would be conducted. The Clerk noted a factor to be considered for future meetings in cold weather--air quality when the meeting room is closed up. Without open windows the air inside is stagnant and could pose a problem if covid infections persist. Some form of air filtration and circulation will be required.

Guy Marsden has researched filtration systems. The cost could be as much as \$8,000 to \$10,000 to clean the air without losing the interior heat. Guy said that he was ready to do much of the installation labor himself which might cut the cost roughly in half.

A small committee was formed to investigate specifications for an air filtration system, to seek a second estimate as to cost, and to make a recommendation to the meeting as to conducting in-person meetings for worship. They will also assess the technical arrangements needed for conducting hybrid meetings to assure effective sound and images for those who participate through zoom. Guy Marsden, Suzy Hallett, and Leslie Siddeley will serve on this committee.

The result of the overall discussion was to assume that future meetings for worship will be held at the meeting house with hybrid zoom availability as soon as such capacity is in place.

The text of the New England Yearly Meeting APOLOGY TO NATIVE AMERICANS was noted and affirmed. This document was approved at last summer's NEYM virtual Sessions. Further discussion is anticipated in the Fall along with the Book Group focus on The Gatherings--Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations. Shirley Hager--a Quaker from Chesterville--who co-edited this book will be featured at Sessions. Jim Matlack reported on the current status of legislation to remedy the deprivations suffered by tribes in Maine --i.e. the "omnibus bill" of relevant amendments to the 1980 law will now be held over for a vote early next year. A public campaign will go forward seeking to persuade the Governor to sign the bill when passed.

Diane DiCranian will be in the meeting house on a zoom connection to NEYM business sessions over August 7 to 12. She invited Friends to join her especially when two Minutes initiated by Midcoast Meeting will be read at Sessions. Jim Matlack will read the one focused on Israeli incarceration of Palestinian children in support of the campaign: No Way To Treat A Child. The other Minute urges NEYM to reconsider its ongoing financial support to Friends United Meeting in light of the latter's highly prejudicial hiring practices, especially in Africa.

Brief mention was made of the effort to secure from meeting members a form listing "emergency contacts" as well as a Minute sent out by Quakers in Cuba facing the current public upheaval and which was forwarded by both NEYM and FUM.

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk