

MINUTES

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

JUNE, 2010

Clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a reading followed by a period of silent worship. Nineteen Friends were present. Several “gratitudes” were expressed.

The Minutes of Business Meeting on May 16th were approved. Rachel McGuinness has also served with the Ad Hoc Committee that was considering the proposed pre-school use of the meeting house.

Correspondence We have arranged with Gretchen Hull that her piano loaned to the meeting when we built the meetinghouse will be moved to Christmas Cove. This move will be attempted in July. An expenditure of up to \$150 by the meeting was approved.

A special collection will be taken to cover this expense.

New England Yearly Meeting has offered to cover registration costs for a member of Midcoast Meeting who attends Annual Sessions in Rhode Island on August 7 through 12.

Featured Committee --- Brewster Grace reported for the Peace Center Steering Committee. The present committee first met in February, 2008 to coordinate meeting concerns for Peace, Justice, and Environmental concerns and to seek effective outreach to the local community. Various speakers, discussion groups, and film showings have been presented over the last year. A focused effort has been made to engage members and leaders of local congregations. Additional projects are planned in coming months including special efforts to draw in youthful participants. General satisfaction was expressed with the activities of the Peace Center. As a result of the extended discussion, removal of the “Torture” banner outside the meeting house was approved.

Finance Committee Bill Spock presented the Budget for 2010-2011. Final decision on the budget was delayed until the pre-school proposal was resolved.

Ad Hoc Committee on Pre-School Proposal This special committee reviewed carefully and recommended approval for the proposed use of the meeting house by Coastal Kids Pre-School for several months starting in September. The proposal was discussed in detail, especially with regard to the physical arrangements that would be required. A written contract with the pre-school will be drawn up pro bono by a local lawyer. The rental charge of \$500 per month is calculated to cover the meeting’s costs and not to generate a profit. The pre-school may extend their occupancy past December for some weeks into 2011. The Ad Hoc Committee will remain active to meet with pre-school staff for periodic review sessions. Deep appreciation was expressed for Guy Marsden’s role in facilitating this endeavor. After extensive discussion the proposed pre-school rental arrangement was approved.

Having resolved the pre-school proposal, the proposed Budget for 2010-2011 was approved.

A local group who are starting up a Waldorf School has inquired about possible use of the meeting house in 2011. This will be referred to the AdHocCommittee for assessment. The meeting agreed that

we could not discuss future use of the meetinghouse until we could evaluate the Coast Kids PreSchool use of our facilities.

Ministry and Counsel Suzy Hallett suggested that the practice of staying in the meeting room at the rise of meeting for worship for 10-15 minutes of conversation be continued as a way for members to become better acquainted with each other. Special attention should be given to welcoming strangers. A standard text for announcing this practice each week should be developed and used.

There was a further suggestion that the familiar “Friendly 8’s” scheme be replaced by holding two pot-lucks after meeting each month.

First Day School Committee Rachel McGuinness’ request to allow the children to conduct ecological studies in a section of the woods was approved.

Old Business After discussion seeking to set a date for a called meeting to assess “the health of the meeting,” October 3rd was chosen as the date and Linda Cote-Small accepted the role as leader of this special gathering.

New Business Jim Matlack shared an AFSC announcement that Shan Cretin has been selected as the new General Secretary. He also handed out the text of a Minute in Honor of Ed Snyder that was recently approved by the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy.

After a brief period of silent worship the meeting was adjourned.

Deborah Haviland – Clerk
Jim Matlack – Recording Clerk