

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
June 21, 2015.

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:30am and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 18 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved after adding one item under 'other business.' The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and approved as written in the Newsletter.

2. Committee Reports.

A. **Finance.** Bruce Rockwood reported the Finance Committee met Thursday, June 18, from 1:30 to 3:35pm here at the Meeting House. Bruce was elected Clerk of the Finance Committee, and they had a good discussion and will meet again in a few weeks after Tom Hagan, Assistant Treasurer, gets the final figures from Martin Imm to close out the books on the last fiscal year. We will report on that at the July Meeting for Business. We will get new software (QuickBooks) for Tom and contract for the outside audit. David Cadbury, as Treasurer, reported that the bank accounts had been transferred to him with David and Clerk Jim Matlack authorized to sign checks. The pledge letter was approved as written by Bill Spock in May and will go out shortly.

B. **Ministry and Counsel.** Suzy Hallett reported that the draft State of the Society Report for New England Yearly Meeting covering the calendar year 2014 is nearly ready and will be distributed shortly by email to the Meeting for review and approval at the July Meeting for Business. Ministry and Council will meet Tuesday afternoon.

C. **Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC).** Karen Cadbury reported on the progress of the grant applications being made, and hopes to have a result in the fall. She indicated they are on-track with their budget. Discussions to connect MOPC programs with the AFSC are underway, and Brewster Grace is helping in that process. Sue Rockwood reported on the upcoming speakers being sponsored by MOPC, including: Bob Eaton and Martin Barber speaking on Thursday, July 2 at 6:30pm here at the Meeting House on the impact of war on people, and the problem of land mines; and Wendy Batson speaking on survivor assistance, looking at Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30pm here. Other speakers are being planned both from Maine and nationally, and Brewster Grace is applying to the Maine Humanities Council for a grant to help fund this program. Sue Rockwood mentioned the positive feedback on the Meeting House and parking from students at the Coastal Senior College classes which have been held here recently, and indicated more classes are planned for the fall. For children's programming, Sue reported that they plan gentle programming in the summer and stepping up in the fall with announcing what the Sunday children's programming will be in the Lincoln County News weekly calendar in hopes of attracting more participation.

D. **Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy.** Jim Matlack is Clerk of the FCMPP. He explained its history, how it was temporarily laid down, and is now active and continuing its focus on two major issues: criminal justice and prison reform; and the rights and needs of the Native Peoples of Maine, the Wabanaki. FCMPP is currently most active in working with tribal concerns. He cited the *Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980*,

a state statute later ratified by Congress. Jim explained the Act was intended to provide a context for respect of the treaty and customary rights of the native peoples. He noted the State of Maine has misinterpreted that act and in a bi-partisan way failed to give due respect to the tribes, leading most recently to the walk-out of tribal legislative representatives from the State legislature in Augusta a few weeks ago. He circulated a letter he wrote that was edited and printed in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* last week and a the fuller version printed in the *Free Press* discussing these concerns, a copy of which will be kept in our archives. Jim explained the creation of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2012, and how it was modeled on the South African Truth & Reconciliation Commission, addressing the taking of native children and placing them in foster families to lose their cultural identities and often to be abused as well. The final report was just published and the archives including oral statements will soon be available at Bowdoin College and on-line. Jim also explained the dispute mechanism set up by the tribes and the state to implement the 1980 statute: MITSC, <http://www.mitsc.org/index.php> and how it has been largely ignored by the Governor and made be falling into disuse. For further information on these issues, see: <http://www.mainewabanakitrc.org/> , <http://mainewabanakireach.org/tag/truth-and-reconciliation/> , <http://usm.maine.edu/muskie/cutler/maine-wabanaki-state-truth-and-reconciliation-commission> , and <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/5/1/wabanaki-truth-and-reconciliation-commission.html> .

On a related matter, Guy Marsden reported the request from the Four Winds Development Corporation to roll over their \$10,000 loan to this tribal fund. Bruce Rockwood indicated that the Finance Committee was aware of this request and would ask that their report be sent to us so that the Finance Committee can review it at our next meeting and report back to the July Meeting for Business. The committee had discussed rolling over the loan last year, and this is probably what we will recommend.

E. Meeting House and Grounds.

Steve Gory reported that weather permitting we hope to have a weed and brush clean-up around the Meeting House after the rise of worship next Sunday. Feel free to bring a bag lunch and wear appropriate clothes and bring gloves if you can help out. We also need to discuss mowing patterns with the person hired to mow the grounds. Plans to repaint the interior of the Meeting House remain under review. The Meeting thanked Guy Marsden and David Cadbury for helping to install the new toilet replacing the last of the two older toilets at a lesser expense than the first one replaced by the plumber.

F. Hospitality and **G. Library.** Rachel McGinness: No report from either.

3. Other Business/Special Concerns.

a. Sue Rockwood reported that Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness and she had solicited ideas for recognizing the 20th Anniversary of this building this year. Their recommendation is to plan a picnic and barbecue in September or October, and work with Building & Grounds, Hospitality and MOPC to investigate and obtain or build a Peace Pole to install outside the Meeting House like those many schools have. She saw one at the one-room school house on Monhegan Island last weekend, and they reflect Quaker values and would be a nice way to mark the occasion. The Peace Pole can be 4, 6 or 8

sided, and has the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in many different languages. See: <http://www.peacepoleproject.org/> ; <http://www.peacepoles.com/> ; and http://www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html . It was agreed that this should not be very expensive and we can probably built it ourselves and the sense of the Meeting was that we should proceed with this endeavor.

b. Karen Cadbury mentioned that we had started last fall and winter with "Friendly 8's" group dinners and they had been successful but somewhat trailed off over the winter, and indicated she hoped we would restart signups to get the program going again in the fall. Bruce Rockwood suggested we also consider ideas for a book discussion group starting in the fall, as was the practice some years ago.

c. In regards to attempts of Quakers to positively influence public policy, Tom Hagan recommended the unfortunate results of a Princeton report indicating how little impact average voters have on public policy formation. The full report is behind a paywall, but here is a news item about it: <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-echochambers-27074746> See also:



4. **Closing Worship.** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:05 pm. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, July 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matlack, Clerk
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk