

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
June 19, 2016 [The Nineteenth Day of the Sixth Month].**

1. James Matlack, Clerk, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:25am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions and after additions the agenda was approved by consensus. 28 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, and 21 participated in Meeting for Business.
2. The Minutes of the May Meeting for Business were not posted in time for today's meeting, so they will be distributed by Guy Marsden later today and their approval was deferred to the July Meeting for Business.

3. Committee Reports.

A. **Pastoral Care.** Jean Crawford. Pastoral Care met Wednesday June 15 at 10am at Carmen Lavertu's house. We recommend that the Meeting draft a minute or other response in support of the LGBT community in light of the events in Orlando. We ask that it state that the meeting is an open community that welcomes all, regardless of gender identity or expression or sexual orientation. Sue Rockwood, Alianne Harper Rockwood, and Karen Cadbury agreed to work with Jean Crawford and anyone else who wishes to help in developing a response that could be widely shared and agreed as reflecting the Meeting's concerns so that Jim Matlack as clerk would be able to communicate it as the Meeting's response to the local newspapers next week. Jean reported that Willow and others would like to see listening sessions continued in the summer. Guy commented that he enjoyed participating in them. The consensus was that Jean should work with those interested in setting a future time for renewing the listening sessions this summer. Pastoral Care also recommends the Meeting host a picnic as a social event sometime this summer, and several members indicated an interest in helping coordinate such an event. With respect to the emergency fund it was noted that it is a limited resource (approximately \$440 at present) and that we were unable to reach consensus on folding its committee structure into Pastoral Care, laying it down, or changing its name to "emergency response." Our committee is small, and the emergency fund currently needs a third person from outside PC. We recommend Jim Matlack as clerk of the Meeting to serve as that third contact person and member of the emergency fund committee for the time being, and he agreed to do this. To avoid confusion, we are renaming the "emergency response form" new members and attenders are asked to fill out concerning family contact information to "family contact form." We thank Deborah Haviland for continuing to coordinate quarterly meetings for worship with Claire Darrow and her family at The Highlands in Topsham.

B. **Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness. Beedy Parker has donated the compost bin now installed behind the Meeting House. It was agreed to update notice information to renters and others who use the Meeting House as to how to dispose of compostable items.

C. **Meeting House and Grounds.** Guy Marsden led a lengthy and thoughtful discussion of the proposal to lease a portion of the Meeting House grounds to a solar farm which would be installed by ReVision Energy. He distributed a Q&A list of responses from

ReVision to concerns raised at the June 12th special session on the solar farm proposal after the rise of Meeting last week. Patty Seybold distributed her notes from that Meeting and distributed a proposed Minute agreeing to go forward with the proposal that she and Bruce Rockwood had prepared for consideration. Martin Imm expressed concern about the size of the proposed array, and asked what a design at the lower end of the 40-50KW range would look like, and if it were smaller where it would be located. Guy indicated he would ask ReVision to reply to this inquiry, and report back to us. Deborah Haviland expressed concerns about the use of the grounds citing the discussions at the time the Meeting purchased the land from the original owner. Patty Seybold explained her offer to provide trees or other landscaping to address concerns about the view of the array from the Meeting House. Bruce Rockwood expressed his belief that the array would stand for how we are supporting sustainability as "the way for peace" given the challenges we face from climate change, and hoped it would be an example that would attract young people to the Meeting. Patty Seybold mentioned that Brewster Grace had expressed aesthetic concerns with the proposal but had indicated he could not attend today and would in any case stand aside in favor of the Meeting's discernment. Beedy Parker indicated she would watch with curiosity to see how plants and animals and insects adapted to the solar array. Guy and Bruce both mentioned seeing birds nesting under solar panels --- those on the Meeting House (Guy) and the Rockwood home. Karen Cadbury commented favorably on the lengthy and thoughtful process that had gone into this discussion, and that the concerns she had raised had been addressed by the response of the Damariscotta assessor. It was explained again that members and attenders of the Meeting would in the first 60 days have priority in investing in one of the maximum of nine shares in the solar farm, and what the cost of an average share would be, although the actual cost would depend on any given investor's requirements and share. After discussion, James Matlack as clerk summarized the discussion and asked if the Meeting agreed to go forward with the proposal and authorize Guy Marsden to proceed with finalizing an agreement with ReVision to go forward with the solar farm proposal, and it was agreed to by adopting the following Minute which Bruce Rockwood distributed and read aloud:

Midcoast Friends Meeting Solar Farm Minute

The Midcoast Friends Meeting supports sustainability, clean energy and conservation. We support the development of renewable energy solutions and deliberate action to move away from the primacy of fossil-fuels. To that end, we feel moved to offer the use of a part of the Meeting's property as a solar farm to generate electricity for the use of Maine residents. We hope that by contributing to the solar energy infrastructure in the State of Maine, we will be reducing residents' future reliance on fossil fuels and providing for the needs of our shared community. We intend this solar farm to make a strong testimony reflecting our meeting's religious commitment to green energy and a reduction in the use of fossil fuels.

We thus ask the Building and Grounds committee to finalize an agreement with ReVision Energy to develop a Solar Farm on our property at the proposed site, understanding that members and attenders of the Midcoast Friends Meeting shall have the first opportunity to invest in the farm, including those who wish to make modest investments. Care will be

taken to preserve the esthetics of the views from the Meeting House to the solar farm and from the road to the Meeting House, and the committee will work to mitigate any risk to the plants and animals in the solar farm array.

D. Finance Committee and Treasurer Reports. Bruce Rockwood as Clerk reported that on Friday June 17, 2016 he attended the drilling of the Safe Deposit Box at Damariscotta Bank & Trust in Damariscotta, due to the loss of the two keys that we were unable to locate for the past several years, paying a fee of \$250. The contents of the box included: 1.) An envelope dated 3/21/94 containing the Warranty Deed, Agreement and partial release of the mortgage for the Meeting House. 2.) An expired 1998 insurance policy, which he brought today to turn over to the Treasurer to compare with our current policy coverage. 3.) 11 "C.O." letters and a copy of the Meeting newspaper advertising our willingness to receive and store these letters. 4.) An envelope dated 12/04/1998 with a certificate of organization of the Corporation of the Midcoast Friends Meeting as a non-profit in the state of Maine, and a copy of our by-laws. Apart from the expired insurance policy he returned all the documents to the box with new locks and got two keys, one of which he will keep as Clerk of Finance Committee, and the other has been turned over to Jim Matlack as Clerk of the Meeting. The receipt for the key was turned over to the Treasurer, David Cadbury. The three signatories on the box are now the Clerk of the Meeting, the Clerk of the Finance Committee, and the Treasurer, and we recommend that these officers be the ones to handle this box in the future, being careful to update names and addresses as the Meeting's officers change. We also corrected the mailing address on the DB&T records for the Meeting to reflect our Meeting's mailing address, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, as mail is not delivered to the Meeting House itself, and officers' home addresses can change over time.

Bruce reported the Finance Committee has agreed to delay for a few months the annual pledge letter, to the end of summer, reflecting the recent need to have follow-up pledge letters to complete the last FY. This may help remind us all why our FY 2016-2017 budget is so tight, and why we are relying on individual members to contribute to the many social organizations we all support as the Meeting's budget remains in deficit as long as we rely on reserves to balance it each year. We thank Att. Jon Hull and his wife Gretchen Hull for their recent donation to CHIP through us on behalf of the Meeting.

David Cadbury as Treasurer indicated he will complete our report on the final statistics for our income and expenses as of May 30, 2016 (the end of the last fiscal year) as soon as the bookkeeper gives us the totals, and as soon as the most recent NEYM pooled funds statements are received, at the July Meeting for Business.

Rachel McGinness expressed her profound concern about the removal of funding for CHIP from the June 1, 2016-May 30, 2017 FY budget. Bruce Rockwood explained that this was a bare bones budget in an attempt to address years of deficit spending without overly drawing down our reserves. Jim Matlack emphasized we had reduced or dropped other contributions of importance (e.g., AFSC, FCNL) as Meeting grants for this reason as well, and that we all individually support these programs as best we can. Sue

Rockwood pointed out her efforts in support of the diaper drive run through the community food bank as examples of our continued engagement with the local community, and suggested that now that the diaper drive is completed as of today (Father's Day) we could use the collection container to collect voluntary contributions from the Meeting members to the Food Bank going forward. Karen Cadbury pointed out the importance of honoring the budget process, and Bruce Rockwood noted we had revised the 2015-2016 FY budgets three times in the past year, the last being in March, while Karen distributed printed and emailed drafts of the proposed 2016-2017 FY budgets in advance of (email) and at (in print) for both the April and May meetings, with the budget being approved in May that included reductions in CHIP and the Food Bank. We only have a little over \$200 in the contingency fund included in the adopted budget, which would not be sufficient if we have something like a broken furnace, pump or toilet as has happened previously. Karen suggested and it was agreed that in April of 2017, when we see how the pledges and contributions to the Meeting have developed to meet the adopted budget, we can revisit whether to reinstate Meeting contributions to some community organizations if that is possible. At that point we will also be working on the 2017-2018FY Meeting budget, and depending on membership, pledges, and other factors we will certainly see what we can do. David Cadbury noted that it is difficult to process donations "through" the Meeting when it entails depositing a check to us for a restricted or designated purpose, and then after it clears, writing a new check to the agency indicated, so it makes more sense for donations "on behalf of the Meeting" be written in checks made out to the organization directly. Andy Burt offered to host a fundraising potluck for CHIP and other worthy local causes on behalf of the Meeting to show continued Meeting support for local groups. Several people volunteered to help her with this.

E. **November 5th conflicts.** Jim Matlack reported on email and phone exchanges he and Carmen Lavertu have had concerning the scheduled Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting here on November 5th, which now conflicts with a NEYM gathering at Portland Friends School on the same day. Both events are three days before the November election, so attendance might be reduced as a result, and it was agreed after discussion to forgo hosting quarterly meeting on that day, with a view to perhaps making an alternative program at a later date (May 6, 2017 was suggested as a possibility). We are not sure of the topic of the NEYM gathering, but Jim would let them know we will participate and ask that they make sure potential attenders at that event from northern Maine will have an opportunity to register and participate, since in the past slots at such programs have filled out quickly.

F. **Ministry and Counsel.** Sue Rockwood noted there will be our second worship sharing program after the social hour next Sunday, with the topic to think about and bring to the worship sharing "how being a Quaker impacts our daily life." Sue Rockwood reported the request for a transfer of membership by Patience Thomas to Boulder, Colorado Friends Meeting, where she has been living with her family for the past year. Jim Matlack summarized her letter for the meeting, and it was agreed to send the letter of transfer as requested.

G. **MOPC.** Karen Cadbury explained that the structure and procedures of MOPC are in place and grants and fundraising have met budgetary goals. From the beginning we have sought input on programs and outreach proposals from members and attenders, and we again ask that anyone interested in participating in the program committee to plan for the summer and fall to contact us. An example of the way members' activities can bring in new people to the Meeting community is Andy Burt's film program and the recent potluck and film presentation she hosted at the meeting house, which was very well attended. Sue Rockwood noted that the mid-week silent worship program open to all on Wednesdays from 0930 to 10am initiated by Suzy Hallett has also brought new people to the meeting house.

H. **Other Business:** Sue Rockwood raised the suggestion of a rainbow flag or sign, or possibly painting rainbow colors on the Peace Pole, as alternative ways to express we are a welcoming and open community. Several people agreed to work with Sue on this project. Jim Matlack read a response to Mary Lord's Travel Minute to Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Andy Burt mentioned additional showings of her film that had been held, with more planned for NEYM's Annual Sessions.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:40pm. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for July 17, 2016 (Seventeenth Day, Seventh Month).

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