

Midcoast Monthly Meeting
Minutes 17 June 2018

Guy Marsden presiding, Ann Armstrong recording, Jean Crawford, Daniel Hall, Deborah Haviland, Gretchen Hull, Judith and Martin Imm, Mary Lord, Jim Matlack, Rachel McGinness, Alianne Rockwood, Bruce Rockwood, Willow and Rowan Rowntree, Patty Seybold, present.

The meeting began with a period of open worship following the reading of the advice on corporate discernment.

2018-06-1 **Minutes** of May 2018 were approved.

2018-06-2 Patty Seybold, for the **Finance Committee**, presented the year end income and expense report. We noted that the report did not include the bequest from Carolyn Miller. The finance committee plans to bring the usual budget versus actual report next month.

2018-06-3 Guy Marsden reported that he has been in correspondence with **Steve Winfield** of New Haven Meeting. Steve, who is now a New England Yearly Meeting representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation is traveling in the ministry to witness about **FCNL's** mission. Steve will be visiting Midcoast Meeting on Sunday July 29 and will share with us after worship.

2018-06-4 **Daniel Hall** reported on the NEYM workshop training for **Challenging White Supremacy**. He received a lot of information and learned several activities to help us learn about White Supremacy. Daniel noticed that the concern is very alive in NEYM and is curious about the level of interest and support within Midcoast MM. The meeting suggested that he share some of the information through the meeting e-news and with the help of Rowan Rowntree and Alianne Rockwood work through Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center to bring a learning session to the meeting.

2018-06-5 **Gretchen Hull** reported on her recent trip to **Islamabad**, where she spent three weeks with the family that she had been corresponding with for the last 16 years. Gretchen gave us some of the background of how this friendship came about. Gretchen was part of starting "Bridges for Peace" around the same time her daughter was doing an extensive high school paper on capital punishment. Her daughter started writing letters to a young man on death row and Gretchen began a letter writing campaign to stay his execution. When that young man was executed, Gretchen, with the help of the man's Imam, managed to get an address for the family in Islamabad in order to send copies of the letters that had been written trying to stay the execution. This began the many years of email correspondence with that family. The visit overwhelmed Gretchen. She was immersed in Ramadan with the family and the whole country. Gretchen hopes to return in December. Friends asked if she could share more about the visit, perhaps through a program with MOPC.

2018-06-6 Willow Rowntree requested that the meeting respond to the crisis involving the separation of children from parents among the immigrants seeking asylum in this country. The meeting discussed various courses of action including writing letters and supporting those who are supporting the children.

Friends approved sending the following letter/petition to our senators. Gretchen Hull will deliver two copies with our signatures to their offices in Augusta.

The Midcoast Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends are deeply opposed to the policy of separating children from their parents when they arrive in this country as refugees seeking asylum.

This short first response will also be sent to local newspapers by Bruce Rockwood.

A fuller letter with more speaking points, written by Alianne and edited by Guy and others will be circulated before the next business meeting for further action by individuals. Bruce, Aliane, Willow, and others will work on the text of a minute to be approved and forwarded to the quarter and yearly meeting.

2018-06-7 Patty Seybold reported for the clearness committee for the **Marriage of Andrea Gaylor and Andrew Webb**. The committee felt that they were well suited and that the meeting should support them in their marriage. The meeting approved holding a called meeting for worship for their marriage on Saturday August 25 on Andrew's property in Manchester ME. They plan to hold a pig roast after the ceremony.

2018-06-8 Mary Lord reported that the membership clearness committee for **Alianne Harper Rockwood** recommends her to the meeting. The meeting approved her **membership**.

2018-06-9 Guy reminded us that MOPC is sponsoring a **Poor People's Campaign Streaming Tuesday** on June 20. This is a public event and various Friends plan to be in attendance to make sure the equipment works and to support Diane Dicranian, from Winthrop Friends, who is part of the Maine Poor People's steering group.

2018-06-10 Willow Rowntree reported for **Pastoral Care Committee**. She reminded us of a farewell celebration for Holly Baldwin next Sunday.

The committee is working on a joint memorial for Jean Harris and Dick Harris. The plan is to have it happen on a second Sunday following meeting for worship. Guy has added a Profile of Jean to the web site on the Forum page, it was written by Kay Liss who knew her for many years.

A memorial meeting for David Cadbury will be set after the family has a chance to make plans. The committee also announced a meeting for worship with Claire Darrow on June 27.

The meeting approved holding a **memorial meeting for Trudi Seybold** on Saturday July 14 at 2pm.

2018-06-11 Guy reported that he and Daniel are struggling to transplant a 6ft. hawthorn tree from Guy's property to one of the islands in the parking lot where Daniel had previously removed invasive honeysuckle.

The meeting closed with open worship and gratitude for everyone's diligence during today's meeting.