

**Minutes**  
Midcoast Monthly Meeting  
Damariscotta, Third Month 16, 2008

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a reading from London Yearly Meeting's *Advices and Queries* (1995). Fifteen Friends were in attendance.

**State of the meeting for 2007 Worship Sharing** - Rachel McGinness convened a sharing session and will report to Ministry & Counsel. That committee will prepare a written report to the Meeting and eventually to NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting).

**Minutes** of the previous month's meeting were **approved**.

**Correspondence** – The clerk reported two items. A letter from Thomas Steele-Maley requesting membership in our meeting was welcomed and referred to Ministry & Counsel. A letter from Friends Center, Philadelphia, enclosing materials for a suggested “Turn Quaker Gray into Quaker Green” project was referred to Andy Burt of Meetinghouse & Grounds.

**Statistical Report** – The clerk submitted a revised report. Last month's omission has been corrected and the report is ready to send to NEYM. The total number of members has increased from 49 to 51.

**Schedule of Events** - A threshing session to sort priorities for FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) will be held March 30 at the rise of meeting for worship. The session will be announced via the email chain. The youth group from the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockland will worship with us April 6 and, hopefully, stay for potluck lunch.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance Committee** – Bill Spock and Paul Diamond introduced a report, “Financial Policy and Procedure”. Friends are urged to study the report in preparation for discussion and possible approval at the next meeting for business. The report states, in part: “Midcoast Monthly Meeting is experiencing declining annual revenues but increasing costs. On the other hand the generosity of some departed Friends towards the Meeting has provided us with reserve funds amounting to about six years' worth of expenditures, at current levels.” Among other things, the report proposes that the Meeting not dip into reserves for five years in order to reestablish equilibrium. It proposes that a portion of the reserves be made permanent. Paul and Bill encouraged committee clerks preparing budget requests to find a balance between needs and discretionary expenditures.

**Treasurer's Report** – Paul Diamond reported that contribution income this year will be 10-15% below budget. It is hoped that committee clerks will submit preliminary budget requests before the April business meeting. A Friend expressed a wish that bequests

could be used for something new rather than for reserves or ordinary expenses. It was noted that a benefactor can designate a bequest to be restricted.

**Meetinghouse & Grounds** – Paul Diamond reported on the committee’s research regarding proposed projects. **Approved:** The Meeting approves Meetinghouse and Grounds' proposals for solar panels, change of hot water heating and hot and cold temperature security monitoring. The total costs of the three proposals should not exceed \$6,900, of which half the cost of the solar panels (\$2,325) should be financed through special project fundraising, with the remaining amount being financed through funds already available for Meetinghouse and Grounds (\$1,283) and through existing Reserve Funds, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

**Ministry & Counsel** – Pete Haviland reported the committee is processing two applications for membership and beginning to meet with applicants. It is seeking assistance from outside the committee for memorial minutes for Lee Coolidge and Sally Wood. It is working with the Peace Center Steering Committee to develop guidelines for the Center. It will draft a state of the meeting report. Concerning this report a Friend expressed concern that the letter from NEYM Ministry & Counsel introducing today’s worship sharing obviated our response to our country’s involvement in war. Another Friend suggested that the report could indicate the kinds of programs we held, such as, on torture and on the Holocaust. In response the Meeting requested that in the near future each committee write up its accomplishments and struggles in 2007 for submission to Ministry & Counsel.

**Pastoral Care Committee** – Carmen Lavertu asked that Friends hold in the Light Alice and John Lacy, Barbara Foust and Henry Beerits.

**Peace & Social Concerns** – The committee is preparing for the March 19 Vigil commemorating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country’s invasion of Iraq. Last week’s film on Darfur, presented by the Human Rights Team of Lincoln Academy, was most successful with many young people attending. The team’s next presentation at the Meetinghouse will be a film, “The Corporation”, during the third week of April. Thomas Steele-Maley has been warmly received as a member of the committee.

**Religious Education** – Sally Tukey reported good news: Rachel McGinness will cover the fourth week of each month, and children/young people have been attending First Day School virtually every week.

**Peace Center** – Brewster Grace reported that the Center is hosting its very first event, the Iraq War Vigil on March 19. Sub-groups on militarism and on environment/alternate energy are hard at work. The latter group submitted a proposed letter from the Peace Center to members and attenders soliciting financial contributions toward the approved solar project. Contributions would go toward purchase, installation and celebration of the system as well as publicity and outreach to the community. A Friend suggested that the Climate Action Club could participate. A long- term possibility is a “sister project” with a workcamp for youth. The Meeting **approved** the letter. Further, Brewster reported that a

mission statement is evolving. The center is also considering appropriate governance. To what extent does the community participate in governance? Should the Peace Center be community owned? Should the Center be Quaker with participation from the wider community? Friends are reminded that the Steering Committee remains open.

**Unfinished Business** – The Meeting discussed how best to handle 1) letters to the editor from a committee and 2) meetings open to the public that are sponsored by a committee of Meeting or co-sponsored with another organization. Do the above need first to be approved by the meeting for business? The Meeting decided that approval by monthly meeting is desirable whenever possible but that we do not want to restrain a committee.

No further business coming before the Meeting it adjourned, following moments of silence, planning to meet next on Sunday, April 20. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk