

Draft Minutes, Meeting for Business
Midcoast Monthly Meeting, March 18, 2012

Clerk pro-tem Mallory Waldman opened the session with a moment of silence. Minutes of the previous month were approved as corrected.

Finance Committee – Committees will please submit budget requests soon so the committee may prepare the 2012-2013 budget. Discussion of the concept of an endowment fund is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 3. Friends discussed the desirability and expense of renewing the meeting's listing of meetings in the back of Friends Journal. A Friend recommended that the meetinghouse's handicap accessibility be included in listings. George Waldman will ask Guy Marsden to update the meeting's website. Deb Haviland will ask how much it would cost for the meeting to be listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book.

Ministry & Counsel – The committee will sponsor James Merkel, author of Radical Simplicity, on June 10 for the Simplicity discussion group. Friends closing meeting for worship were reminded of the meeting's agreement to close with "Good morning, Friends". Linda Murray expressed interest in serving on Ministry & Counsel; however she is not available on workdays.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – George Waldman raised the possibility of the meeting hiring a gardener for one day a week during the growing season. He will research the cost and report to the budget committee.

New Business

Linda Murray hopes to create a vegetable garden outside the meetinghouse. The food raised would be donated to the food pantry. The "three sisters" method, combining corn, squash and beans, would be used. The garden would be approximately 50 x 30 feet; stakes will be placed. Children who attend the school where Linda teaches could participate. Food recipients could participate. All others would be welcome. Meetinghouse & Grounds supports the concept. George Waldman has offered to serve as liaison. The meeting approved the project in principle. Linda and George will put an item in the April Newsletter. The project will be generally publicized. Recipient families (expected to be five, found through the food pantry) will be invited to the potluck on June 3.

Carmen Lavertu brought up for discussion three matters: 1) A book on the Kakamega orphanage has been donated to the First Day School; Carmen recommends the meeting invite Sukie Rice, leader of the American project in Kakamega, to come speak to the meeting; 2) Is there interest in planning a Good Friday peace vigil on April 6? The public would be invited. The question was referred to the Peace Center. 3) Does the meeting wish to review its policy on consumption of alcoholic beverages on the meetinghouse property? (At present consumption is not allowed.) No action was taken.

No further matters coming before the meeting, it adjourned with a moment of silence, planning to meet next on Sunday, April 15, at the rise of meeting. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.