

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
March 20, 2016.**

1. On behalf of the clerk who could not attend today, David Cadbury, Treasurer, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:30am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions and the agenda was approved by consensus.
2. The Minutes of the February Meeting for Business as previously posted on the web site and distributed to the Meeting by an e-mail link provided by Guy Marsden were approved by consensus.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Pastoral Care Committee & Emergency Fund. Carmen Lavertu reported that the Pastoral Care Committee had met, and has submitted its statement for the state of the society report to Ministry & Counsel. She emphasized the need for volunteers from the meeting as a whole to come forward to serve on the two vacant positions on the emergency fund committee. Deborah Haviland suggested we ask Ministry & Counsel to help find persons to take up this role. Carmen emphasized that it only meets as needed.

B. Hospitality. Rachel McGinness was unable to attend today. Sue Rockwood mentioned that on two Mondays when she has come to open up the Meeting House she has found trash left behind from Sunday and lights turned on, and distributed pictures she took of trash on one occasion. Apparently the person from hospitality had taken the trash out and then left, but had not closed up and others had simply left coffee grounds, etc. on top of the pile of plastic bags in the bottom of the trash can. Carmen Lavertu indicated the new hospitality committee members had done an orientation, and that they needed to make sure that whoever on hospitality is responsible for closing up on Sunday is last to leave, takes all the trash and turns all the lights out. It was agreed to note the need to do this in the minutes so that whenever someone is last to leave, they take care of these responsibilities.

C. Finance Committee and Treasurer's Reports. Bruce Rockwood, Clerk of the Finance Committee, summarized his correspondence with Shearman Taber, Treasurer of New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) about their August, 2015 grant policy, the work in progress at the NEYM, and our own proposed policy minute contained in the February, 2016 Meeting for Business Minutes previously circulated. Bruce then read the proposed policy Minute aloud and after discussion explaining its purposes **it was approved by consensus as written**. Bruce then turned the discussion over to David Cadbury, Treasurer, to discuss the revision to the current 2015-2016 FY budget which was distributed to the Meeting members and attenders by email for consideration today. David distributed a one page summary of that longer document, showing our revenues with and without reliance on the \$5,100 reserves taken from the Four Directions Fund, and our expenses with and without certain adjustments either anticipated (due to lower costs) or recommended, as contained in the emailed proposal. Carmen Lavertu commented that she recognized the need to reduce donations (to AFSC and FCNL) from the corporate budget this year, but hoped they might be possible to be restored in the

future. It was agreed that we would continue to strongly encourage all members and attenders to individually support such Quaker programs as AFSC, FCNL and the Ramallah Friends School scholarship program. Suggestions for additions or adjustments to the FY2016-2017 budget which will be presented in draft form at the April Meeting for Business are welcome. Our purpose in presenting the adjustments to the current budget today for adoption is to try to bring us into overall balance without undue reliance on reserves, which is not sustainable in the long term. ***After discussion, David Cadbury asked for approval of the revisions proposed to the current budget as contained in the document previously distributed and they were approved by consensus.***

David and Bruce ask that clerks of meeting committees send requests and suggestions for the FY2016-2017 budget to them for consideration at the next finance committee meeting, which will be held in April. We will then prepare a draft budget for discussion at the April Meeting for Business. Deborah Haviland asked if that draft budget could be circulated by email prior to the April Meeting for Business and David said that would be an excellent idea and they will do it.

D. Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood reported that we have received an invitation from the Unitarian Universalists to have the Meeting, or individual members, participate in a Saturday, April 16th Workshop at the Skidompha Library from 0930 to 2:30pm on how to become a welcoming and safe space for transgendered people led by a Unitarian Minister with experience in this area – Transgender 101. She has posted their flier and information on can be found at: <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/identity/transgender> . She then noted that because the fourth Sunday in March is Easter, that our first Worship Sharing program will be the 4th Sunday in April, April 24th. She is working with Alex Ulin to find a suitable date in May or June for Alex to report on her trip to Nepal that was supported by the Meeting. State of Society Reports from committees have been mostly submitted (Bruce will get the Finance Committee report in shortly!) and will be used to prepare a draft report for the Meeting to submit to NEYM. Sue outlined a proposal to obtain a composting bin that could be used to address organic trash from Meeting (solving part of our problem of leftovers from Sunday's social hour) and provide an educational experience for young people in the monthly first day program. ***She asked for approval of this project and it was approved by consensus.*** Sue reported that the Food Bank is again seeking donations of diapers or voluntary contributions of funds for diapers during the period between May 8 (Mother's Day) and June 17 (Father's Day). Diapers are expensive and required for children to participate in day care programs, and the diaper drive repackages diapers (so they cannot be resold) and distributes them to families eligible for Mainecare at the Food Bank on Tuesday mornings. Sue is currently helping distribute the diapers on Tuesday mornings due to the unexpected death of the husband of one of the program's sponsors. In response to query Sue explained this was a request for voluntary contributions, and not a budget item. ***She asked the Meeting continue to sponsor this program so she could put a collecting bin (for diapers) in the Meeting House in May, and this was approved by consensus.*** Sue also thanked Guy Marsden and Steve Gorry from the Building & Grounds Committee for all their work.

E. **MOPC.** Sue Rockwood reported on the Creative Parenting Program, which was small but provided a good discussion for those present. The Program Committee will consider how to offer such programs in future at a time which gets more participation by families. The MOPC Budget is on track, and the Program Planning Committee will meet shortly. The new sign has been installed by Steve Gorry and she has donated two lights for it.

F. **Meeting House and Grounds.** No report.

G. **Other Business/Concerns.** Jim Matlack has provided a list of the top five priorities agreed to by our Meeting through the surveys submitted to him, for FCNL to work on in the new Congress. They are posted and he will submit them to the national FCNL for consideration. Bruce Rockwood noted that the final performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe" by the Lincoln County Community Theater is 2pm today at the Lincoln Theater, and he highly recommends it.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:20pm. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
David Cadbury, Treasurer and
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk