
MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

MARCH 19, 2017

Meeting opened with silent worship. Nine people were present.

Susan Rockwood volunteered to take the minutes.

Minutes from the January 15th Meeting for Business were approved.

PASTORAL CARE: Deborah Haviland reported that the Meeting for Worship being held quarterly with Claire Darrow continued to be appreciated and deep. Most recently, about nine people attended. The next worship with Claire will be scheduled for late May at the convenience of her family.

Jim reported that he had a note from Jean Crawford announcing that Pastoral Care will hold a “Fun night” social at 5 pm on Friday, April 28. Pastoral Care will provide a fantastic supper and some games, and donations will be accepted for the Emergency Fund. Those present agreed it sounded like a great idea.

HOSPITALITY: Jim reported that Ann Armstrong sent a message to him pointing out the need for volunteers for the full range of Hospitality Tasks. During discussion, it was agreed that the member of Ministry and Counsel who was being greeter each Sunday would put the coffee on. It was also noted that running the dishwasher as we exit on Sunday allows Sue Rockwood to empty it on Monday. Sue reported that she was shopping for the housekeeping supplies as needed, and agreed to have staple elements in supply for refreshments at the rise of Meeting. Signup for refreshments is on the table in the lobby.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS: Guy Marsden shared that Revision Energy has had a survey done to locate markers on the edge of our property where the solar array will go. Because of several factors, including the slope of the ground being advantageous and the need to avoid power lines, the Revision engineer has moved and tightened the planned array, so now it will be four shorter sections tucked as close to our bordering property as allowed and not come as far across the field towards our driveway as previously planned. Guy appreciated that the Revision staff are working very conscientiously with us.

Patty and Trudy Seybold explained that they were working with the interested members of the Climate Justice group to design a hedgerow to screen the back of the array from view of the meetinghouse. Patty and Trudy are planning on donating the plants required and hoping that a work day or two will get them planted.

Guy reported on three quotes he has for replacing our 16 bench cushions — which are currently over 20 years old and in poor shape. These quotes were for a medium weight industrial use fabric

and three different foam cushion options. Those present agreed that the better quality cushion was worth the cost difference and opted for that. After discussion a Cushion Project was approved, where people will be invited to sponsor a cushion (there will be a diagram with a chance to sign on to a cushion) and that any needed funds remaining would be searched for in the Building and Grounds budget or any surplus we find at the end of the budget year.

Guy reported that the Department of Transportation required us to replace our worn highway signs, and that he has ordered them as a donation to the Meeting. He will install them, as well.

Guy reported that he also donated a recent drinking water test and the results came back “all good.”

The Meeting expressed gratitude and appreciation for Guy’s many gifts to the Meeting, not the least of which was his skill and care.

Guy and Alex Rockwood plan to dig a trench between the handicapped parking pad and the front garden and fill it with gravel in order to improve drainage there where water and ice accumulate.

FINANCE: Bruce Rockwood reviewed a worksheet he distributed which was his way of gauging how we are doing with expenditures against our budget and listing expenses by committee or category so that we could see what has been recorded against their budgets so far. He pointed out that several bills for plowing, some donations we make as a Meeting towards the end of the fiscal year, and our annual insurance bill were not yet factored in. Total expenditures toward the budget recorded thus far show as about two-thirds of the total budgeted, and cash on hand is more than adequate to finish the budget year.

Patty Seybold reported that she and Bruce had met with our new accountant and reviewed her spreadsheet. The next step is to review the categories and get feedback for the next year’s budget from committees. Finance hopes to prepare a draft budget for the April Business Meeting, so it would be helpful to get Committee requests to anyone on the Finance Committee beforehand if possible. Deb pointed out that Pastoral Care would not be meeting as a committee before April Business Meeting. Bruce and Patty said the Finance Committee will make its best estimate in such cases in order to present a draft budget, but it would be a draft and adjustments could be made.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: Mary Lord reported that four people from Midcoast attended Quarterly Meeting: Mary, Ann, Deb and Carmen. The program on refugees was an excellent presentation, with a focus on asylum and the programs coordinated in our state by Catholic Charities, especially for Somali clusters and in Lewiston, Portland, and Thomaston. There is a need for volunteers, Mary reported. There will be another opportunity to learn more at a similar presentation in Rockland later this month. At the Quarter Business Meeting a letter about refugees was approved and will be distributed.

Yesterday, Ann Armstrong facilitated the NEYM Ministry and Counsel “Day Treat” gathering which Mary and Guy both attended and enjoyed. Ann will also lead a USFW retreat on the Ministries of Women at Woolman Hill in April. Contact Ann for more information.

Jim reported that Carmen asks friends to take on the role of Midcoast’s representative to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting and Deb and Mary agreed that they would be able to cover that between the two of them.

Mary reported that the Ministry and Counsel Committee is about to take up the preparation of the State of Society report. Deb suggested a practice that included a Meeting for Sharing. Mary said that a number of possibilities including that practice were up for consideration, but no decision has been made yet.

Jim reported that Mary Lord's transfer from Adelphi Meeting had been accepted by Ministry and Counsel and the Meeting for Business approved her transfer of Membership to Midcoast Friends Meeting.

Jim read a letter of transfer from Northside Friends Meeting, highly recommending Daniel Hall. Ministry and Counsel recommended acceptance of the transfer and it was approved.

Jim read a reported that George Chappell is requesting a transfer of membership from Midcoast to Vassalboro. Ministry and Counsel will take up the matter.

Polly and Mary reported that Ministry and Counsel are working on a way to reach out to all members. They are talking with Pastoral Care about a sense that tensions and hurts can cause a drifting away and are considering a system of visiting as a way to address that. Discussion included a need to focus on the positive, listening, welcoming new people, recognizing that the community has changed in ways, acknowledging change and going forward. Mary pointed out that rather than having separate parts that are greater than our whole, we hope that our whole will be greater than our parts, and everyone agreed with that characterization.

Cynthia Thomas' memorial will be held on April 8, at 2 pm, at the Meetinghouse.

The current membership list was available for members to check their listings for accuracy so that Diane Onken Kirkman, our Statistical Recorder, could use it as the basis for our annual reporting to New England Yearly Meeting.

MIDCOAST OUTREACH AND PEACE CENTER: Susan Rockwood distributed a report sharing that we have turned another corner, with increased notice and participation in the local community, and rental and activity levels that have meant 100 to 200 people have used the building each week recently, despite our small and geographically diverse group. Add to that the need to support activities because committees are short-handed and often unable to attend to midweek chores, and Susan reports that she is regularly called to work for the Meeting outside of her office hours. In recent weeks she has shoveled the porch and the furnace vent clear after a snow storm, spent a Wednesday night co-writing a grant request due at midnight, shopped for toilet paper and tissues, welcomed a Friday night sleepover, provided them with breakfast fixings and sent them off before the Saturday morning rental that followed. Susan is requesting the meeting provide more support and try and confine non-urgent requests to her office hours.

The February 20th event with AFSC staff at the Meetinghouse was highly successful, drawing a crowd of over 40 people for a well-received presentation.

The MOPC Program Committee is still collecting suggestions for the best use of the unexpected donation of \$2000.

OTHER CONCERNS AND NOTICES:

The Meeting will be hosting the NEYM Ministry and Counsel Committee on May 20th—we will need to provide overnight hospitality and luncheon as we host the gathering. Deb Haviland, Patty Seybold and Mary Lord will take care of the arrangements.

NEYM Climate Consultation will be April 22nd at Friends meeting of Cambridge, MA

Woolman Hill/NEYM Workshops on “Nurturing Worship, Faith and Faithfulness” Residential sessions for August, December and May : see flyer posted on the bulletin board or look online for more information.

Maine Interfaith Advocacy Days are March 27 & 28. They are designed to bring people of all faiths together in the state capital to worship, learn, and advocate effectively with maine legislators on the issues of hunger, homelessness, health care, and climate change. Link: EpiscopalMaine.formstack.com/forms/maine

Paula Palmer will be in Augusta on April 18, offering a talk at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center: Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. On April 23 she will be at Beacon Hill Friends House in Boston, presenting “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples” at 1 pm.

All Maine Gathering of Friends will be hosted by Vassalboro Quarterly meeting on May 6 at the South China Community Church. An open-hearted inquiry into racial identity. A flyer is posted at the Meetinghouse.

NEYM Student Scholarship Granting Subcommittee is accepting applications until May 15.

An appeal from Friends Camp will be passed along in our E-News update.