

Minutes

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business
Damariscotta, Fifth Month 18, 2008

Co-clerk Karen Cadbury opened the meeting with moments of silence. There were 18 in attendance. Carmen Lavertu was thanked for the homemade rhubarb pies a la mode we had enjoyed. Minutes of the previous meeting were **approved**.

Finance Committee – Bill Spock distributed for our information the pledge letter that will soon be mailed out. Paul Diamond distributed the final draft of the pending 2008-09 budget. He noted that committee budgets would be smaller than in the past. Income is projected to be the same as the current year. The budget for “worthy needs” would be limited. Several Friends spoke to the question of the “worthy needs” item. An ad hoc committee of Karen Cadbury, Carmen Lavertu and Linda Cote-Small was appointed to consider how to fund such causes and to report to the business meeting. Friends’ suggestions today included: assigning any committee funds unspent at year’s end to worthy needs, taking special collections after meeting for worship, holding a fundraising event, and inviting in-kind contributions. The annual budget was **approved**.

Ministry & Counsel – Brewster Grace reported. The committee recommended approval of Thomas Steele-Maley’s application for membership and the meeting **approved** with pleasure. The committee is planning several events: Jim Matlack will speak on Quaker values and social conflicts in the American experience on a date to be announced. The panel on the significance of Quakerism in people’s lives now and in the future is taking shape. Members of the committee are writing queries on vocal ministry to be read during meetings for worship. There was discussion regarding how the meeting will respond to NEYM’s (New England Yearly Meeting) request for input regarding same-sex marriages under the care of a meeting. Ministry & Counsel will consider what was said today. They will review last Fall’s minute approved by NEYM, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting’s discussion of same, a 1996 minute by our meeting on the topic, and steps toward healing that have already been taken.

Peace & Social Concerns – Beginning in June the book discussion group will reconvene. It will meet on the second and fourth Sundays each month at 8:30 a.m. The committee hopes to have a fundraiser, perhaps to benefit Haitians. The meeting **approved** exploration of possible formats for the fundraiser.

Religious Education – Karen Cadbury and Sally Tukey reported. They are still looking for child-size furnishings for the all-purpose room. There is a need for volunteers to teach during the summer weeks when the regular program is not in session.

Hospitality – Anne Spencer reported. Friends will please volunteer to provide refreshments after worship on Sundays. We are also asked to consider the future of monthly potluck lunches as the trial period concludes next month.

Peace Center – Brewster Grace reviewed projects under way, including the anti-war film series and the environmental stewardship project. He distributed the recently completed Mission Statement.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – Paul Diamond reported. The new hot-water-on-demand system is up and running. The new security system is being set up. The committee asks for volunteers for a sub-committee on artwork in the meetinghouse.

No further business coming before the meeting, it adjourned following moments of silence. It will meet next on Sunday, June 15, following meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cadbury, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk