

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business -- May 31, 2015

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 16 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved after adding several items under 'other business.' The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved as written in the Newsletter.

2. Committee Reports.

A. **Finance.** Deborah Haviland presented the spreadsheet for the **2015-2016 budget, which was approved** as written after brief discussion. Jim Matlack on behalf of the Meeting thanked Bill Spock, Deborah Haviland and Martin Imm for their hard work on preparing the budget again.

B. **Ministry & Counsel.** Suzy Hallett asked that the Minutes today reflect a **Minute of Appreciation for the work of Bill Spock, Deborah Haviland, and Martin Imm for their years of service as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively.** She reported that Ministry & Counsel had met last Thursday at length discussing candidates who are members of the Meeting for the open positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Tom Hagan had previously been nominated to be Assistant Treasurer, and since Deborah Haviland has asked to step down as of May 31 as Treasurer, Ministry & Counsel after consulting with potential candidates has asked **David Cadbury to serve as Treasurer**, and he has agreed and is delighted to **work with Tom Hagan as Assistant Treasurer as of June 1.** *These nominations were approved by the Meeting after brief discussion*, and it was asked to record this action in the Minutes of the Meeting.

It was pointed out that as the Assistant Treasurer's role is to oversee and balance the financial statements of the Meeting, **check writing authority and access to banking records for the Meeting should be vested in the Clerk, James Matlack, and the Treasurer, David Cadbury, as of June 1, 2015.** *Assistant Treasurer Tom Hagan should also have access to the on-line banking records of the Meeting* to facilitate balancing accounts and reporting on the financial picture of the Meeting at meeting for business, and this action is also recorded in these Minutes.

Process for nominating officers was discussed, and Sue Rockwood reported on what the Guidance on Officers and Committees is in *Faith & Practice*, our Bylaws, and decisions taken at Meeting for Business (Feb, 2012, Nov, 2012, Sept 2013, Sept 2014 and Jan 2015, as recorded in our Minutes which are available on-line) which reflect our current practice of having Ministry & Counsel posting sign-ups for committee and officer positions and reporting them to meeting for business for approval. Each committee then selects its own clerk. A suggestion was made that when officer vacancies occur, Ministry & Counsel should also solicit suggestions for nominees from other committee clerks. Sue Rockwood distributed the new list of committee positions and asked that names of clerks be reported to her once they are chosen so that the list can be updated accordingly.

Deborah Haviland noted that the Meeting has a safe deposit box with our old bank, Damariscotta Bank & Trust, which may contain the deed to the building and records of conscientious-objector statements made in the past. It was suggested to investigate whether we still need a safe deposit box, and if so, whether to move it to our new bank. The new Finance Committee will conduct a search for the keys, as otherwise there is a fee to request a new key, whether we keep the current box or obtain a new one.

Ministry & Counsel is still searching for someone to volunteer to take over maintaining the database used for the directory and mailing labels from Pat Spock, who has asked to step down from this position. She uses an older version of Microsoft Access and has given her files on a disc to Sue Rockwood, to help with transfer of the process. Bill Spock pointed out we use the database to print labels for the annual pledge letter which will go out in June, and the labels for this year have been prepared already. The database is also used to determine our annual contribution to New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) based on current membership. Diane Kirkman is also asking for someone to take over preparing the monthly newsletter, though she is willing to continue preparing it until a replacement is found.

Suzy Hallett indicated that as previously requested, committees have submitted to M&C their reports on their work for the annual State of the Society report to NEYM. Some are quite lengthy, and it was agreed that M&C would do a cover letter and brief summary of these reports and otherwise submit the committee reports in a package to NEYM. While NEYM would like these reports by June 1, it was agreed to first prepare the cover letter and package and circulate it before the June meeting for business for approval then before submitting it to NEYM.

M&C reports that the Rockwoods are requesting transfer letters of their membership from Millville Monthly Meeting in PYM to our Meeting. Bruce and Alexander are seeking transfer letters now, while Sue is waiting to see if Alianne can remain a MMM member on her own as she is active in PYM activities, before Sue will transfer her membership here.

Suzy Hallett, Sue Rockwood, Carmen Lavertu, Anne Burt and Jean Crawford attended a workshop sponsored by Freeport Meeting at Friends Camp in China, Maine, and presented by New York Yearly Meeting, on "conflict transformation" in meetings, which included

presentations, examples, and small-group role-playing. M&C feels this would be a worthwhile workshop to bring to our Meeting and it was agreed that M&C should proceed to see if a half- or full-day workshop can be planned over the summer.

C. **Midcoast Outreach & Peace Center (MOPC).** There is a possible new grant from the Shoemaker Fund for three years of support for MOPC work. Karen Cadbury will continue working on this and other grant proposals and report back as information becomes available. Sue Rockwood reported on the successful presentation this past Thursday evening to 23 in attendance here by Dan Asher Filstein (an apprentice at The Carpenter's Boatshop) on volunteer efforts to help prevent migrant deaths on the Arizona-Mexico border by the group No More Deaths. <http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/en/> This is the first in a series of presentations being planned with the leadership of Brewster Grace and the Program Committee for the coming months on human-rights crises in Maine and around the world and how they impact us here in Maine and how we can help. More information and dates will be forthcoming.

D. **Meetinghouse & Grounds.** Guy Marsden reported that one older toilet had been replaced by professionals, but that he has investigated costs and will replace the other one himself. He has also repaired the bent railing on the front porch. He distributed a photo of the current Meeting sign and the MOPC sign, and there was discussion on how to replace or update the sign(s). It was agreed that MOPC and H&G would discuss this matter and report back in the future. Steve Gorry reported that he has investigated the costs of cleaning, repairing cracks and repainting the interior of the meetinghouse, and feels that it would be most affordable to do it ourselves over a period of weekends, so that costs would be limited to materials and supplies. It may be that washing the walls will be sufficient in the worship room. Suggestions for colors to consider for paint are solicited, and Suzy Hallett agreed to work with him on this subject. Requests for paint color suggestions will be mentioned at a subsequent rise of worship, and in the newsletter, to ensure all voices are heard. He thanked those who had helped trim the bushes on the islands in the parking lot, and plans to find small shrubbery to give the islands a more professional look. It was agreed that while mowing the lawn, a clear path between the meetinghouse and Belvedere Road should be marked out and maintained to make us more visible and clearly open to those who come to our programs. It was suggested the path be a little meandering rather than a straight line, to make it more attractive. Suzy Hallett asked if workdays would be scheduled to help in the yard work and he said yes.

E. **Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness was not here today. Sue Rockwood and Suzy Hallett reported that the sign-up list for providing snacks after morning meeting is working well. Jean Crawford reported that it is helpful if Rachel has a list of people she can call as needed.

3. **Other Business/Special Concerns.**

Carmen Lavertu reported that John Eben Lacey has passed away. He had been here for several years helping when Alice Lacey was in decline. Deborah Haviland distributed bookmarks for the memorial service of Thomas Reardon, a long-time attender here who passed away January 4, 2015. She will help prepare a memorial minute for him for our records.

Willow Rowntree reported on behalf of the Emergency Fund Committee, which also includes Jean Crawford, Carmen Lavertu and George Chappell, that they would like to explore obtaining additional funds for the fund as emergencies come up unexpectedly. This will be discussed at future meetings as our resources are limited and it may also be fruitful to consider how we can help people in need connect with other social services that are available as needed.

Jim Matlack reported on the on-going work on the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, particularly with respect to the challenges facing the native peoples of Maine. FCMPP testified in Augusta recently on five pending bills in the legislature relating to these issues, including fishing rights. Carmen Lavertu reported that the Truth & Reconciliation Report will be released in June after a series of public hearings.

Jim Matlack reminded everyone that after the close of business today, there will be also a brief annual meeting of the Corporation of the Midcoast Friends Meeting.

4. **Closing Worship.** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:55 p.m. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, June 21, 2015. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available on the meetinghouse bulletin board and at <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/newsletter.htm>.

5. At 1 p.m., the **Corporation of the Midcoast Friends Meeting** convened, answered the required questions in the affirmative, approved a Minute reflecting this action as required by law, and closed after a brief meeting for worship. A copy of that Minute will be appended to these Minutes in our records.

Respectfully submitted, *Jim Matlack*, Clerk; *Bruce L. Rockwood*, Recording Clerk