

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

NOVEMBER 20, 2011

After a period of silent worship Clerk Suzy Hallett opened the meeting with eighteen Friends present. Minutes of the October 16th Meeting for Business were approved.

Jean Crawford distributed a list of “Officers, Committees, and Representatives for 2012” prepared by the Gifts and Leadings Committee for preliminary consideration. A few changes were made and the list was laid over to the December Meeting for Business for final approval.

For Hospitality Committee the Clerk reported that the usual round-robin format for Friendly Eights will not be followed this year. Instead special events open to all meeting members will be arranged including a possible worship service and full meal on New Year’s Day.

A written Finance Committee report was presented by Bill Spock. He followed up with discussion of some insurance concerns and other matters. It was suggested that the committee give renewed attention to the question whether or not Midcoast Meeting should create an endowment fund. Bill will arrange a session at which others who are interested can join in assessing this issue. Martin Imm then presented data sheets displaying the current financial accounts of the meeting. He reviewed major expenditures and expected receipts, noting that some members had not yet pledged their support.

A question was raised whether and how the meeting would join Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in fund-raising for a scholarship at the Quaker School in Ramallah, Palestine. Such support has been given in the past including proceeds of a successful yard sale. It was agreed that the meeting should respond favorably when a formal appeal is sent out.

Brewster Grace reported for the Peace Center. He described an event recently held at the meeting house and co-sponsored with CONA at which a Somali leader from Portland brought traditional foods for sixty attenders and then spoke about current conditions and sufferings in Somalia. Roughly \$700 was raised to aid refugees in Somalia. The Peace Center also arranged a talk at the meeting house by Norman Olson on Maine’s Marine Resources and how to sustain local industries and people who rely upon lobster and fish stocks.

Quarterly Meeting held a successful session at the meeting house. Appreciation was expressed to all who assisted with meals and hospitality and to Brewster Grace who led an excellent afternoon program on Quaker programs at the United Nations.

The Clerk led an exchange about a possible Christmas fund-raiser at the meeting house. Last year’s event yielded \$163 which has not yet been distributed. Making a donation of these funds to the local Food Bank was approved. Carmen Lavertu will again arrange for a supply of coffee from Haiti. The meeting itself will join with others in purchase of bags of this coffee for use at the meeting house. A yard sale may be held in the Spring but no Christmas fund-raiser is now planned.

Brief discussion was held on how the Social Room at the meeting house might be made available as a “Mother and Child Center” once the day care operation has departed. Some problems were identified along with strong interest in moving this idea toward fulfillment in coming months.

The meeting closed with a period of silence. NEXT MEETING FOR BUSINESS = DECEMBER 18th

Suzy Hallett, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk