

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
November 20, 2016. [The 20th Day of the Eleventh Month].**

1. James Matlack, Clerk, 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 after additions the agenda was approved by consensus. 26 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, including 3 children, and 15 participated in Meeting for Business.

2. The Minutes of the October Meeting for Business were approved.

3. Committee Reports.

A. *Pastoral Care*. Jean Crawford. No report.

B. *Hospitality*. Rachel McGinness. No report.

C. *Meeting House and Grounds*. Guy Marsden. In Guy's absence, Bruce Rockwood reported that he and Sue attended a two hour meeting of the Damariscotta Planning Board last Monday, together with a spokesman from ReVision Energy, to discuss our proposed solar farm. The town planner agreed to meet with ReVision and Guy to discuss the check-list for site-plan-review in town. We will arrange to send certified letters to the neighbors of the Meeting concerning the project, as required by town procedures. We intend to get required information together in December for the planning committees' review and a public hearing in December or January. Guy reports that the solar farm is otherwise fully subscribed, and we will let the Meeting know when the next town planning meeting occurs where we are on the agenda, and how matters proceed. Sue reported that Guy had recently installed snow plow markers around the parking lot.

D. *Finance Committee and Treasurer Reports*. Bruce Rockwood. The Finance Committee last met on Wednesday October 5, 2016 at the home of Karen and David Cadbury in Rockland. David and Karen Cadbury, Brewster Grace, Bruce Rockwood, and James Matlack attended. Jim Matlack presented a summary of our work at the October Meeting for Business. Since then we have not had the opportunity to meet as a committee, but Jim has a summary of October financial transactions for today's meeting. The annual pledge letter for MOPC is being prepared by Karen Cadbury and will go out after Thanksgiving. As we discussed our October Finance committee meeting, we are still awaiting quarterly reports from NEYM Pooled Funds about the performance of our own reserves. We will discuss the performance of the NEYM Pooled Funds and consider alternative funds to diversity our portfolio and try to enhance the return on our investments. Bruce and Karen have both suggested alternative funds to consider. The NEYM Finance annual report can be found here: <http://neym.org/finance/annual-reports/2016-annual-report> We appreciate the receipt of annual pledges and payments for the current Meeting Fiscal Year, and ask members and attenders to continue to help us meet our obligations for the support of the meeting and its programs.

Jim Matlack continues to serve as interim Treasurer, and gave Bruce copies of the records of receipts and payments for the month of October. Jim reported the balance in our checking account as of yesterday, with additional checks to be deposited this week. Bruce will match up payments to their budget categories for the months of August-October from the records he has in a format for use in seeing how we are on track with our current budget. We still need to find a local accountant or bookkeeper. The Finance Committee will meet before the December Meeting for Business to discuss these matters.

E. *Ministry and Counsel.* Sue Rockwood. The Meeting was asked by NEYM to support a call for prayer and holding in the Light the Standing Rock Sioux in their protection of water and opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Anne Burt agreed to open the Meeting at dawn (0630am) today and make it available for worship and reflection until dusk, when there will be a candlelight vigil on the Damariscotta-Newcastle Town Bridge. This is also the day of the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance for transgender persons who have died in the past year, where their names are read out. A transgender youth died by suicide at Long Creek center in Maine, in an incident that has drawn wide concern. The Day of Remembrance reading of names is at 4pm in the Newcastle town park next to the Second Congregational Church, while our vigil is set to begin at 4:30pm on the bridge. Sue has communicated with a representative from the Unitarians about developing a common calendar for church and community groups to enhance cooperation and mutual support, and reduce potential overlaps and conflicts in scheduling events such as this. She pointed out our Meeting membership is geographically diverse, so that events such as the anti-racism protests held at the bridge could get more involvement from us if they were held on a Sunday afternoon rather than a weekday.

Ministry and Council are working with the help of Anne Burt to plan a Christmas and Holiday Cookie Bake event for all ages to be held after the meeting for worship on Sunday December 11th. Please give Sue or Anne your suggestions for your favorite holiday cookies and plan on participating in this activity.

Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Sundays this year and we will have meeting for worship as usual, with the traditional lighting of candles at the New Year's Day meeting for worship.

We are continuing with the experiment of having volunteers prepare two soups on the first Sunday of each month so that soup and bread can be provided for all who attend as a social event after the rise of meeting, in lieu of a pot-luck meal. This should make it easier for people with families or busy schedules to be comfortable in staying for the monthly meal and social time together. Two people have signed up for December and the sign-up sheet is in the foyer for those who wish to volunteer for January and beyond.

F. *MOPC.* Sue Rockwood. Brewster Grace. Brewster discussed the "War is Not The Answer" film series being presented this month. 13 attended the showing of "The Burmese Harp" last Tuesday, and "Conspiracy" about the planning of the Nazi "final solution" will be shown at the Meeting at 7pm on November 30, 2016. The film about holocaust denial, "Denial," is being shown at the Lincoln Theater between December 2 and December 8, and on Friday December 9th from Noon-2pm Coastal Senior College will host a brown-bag luncheon discussion of that film and the issues it raises in our social room. Other suggestions for films for our series were made, including "Diplomacy." The diaper drive providing disposable diapers for young mothers eligible for Maine Care and distributed Tuesday mornings at the Food Bank needs volunteers. Sue is coordinating training volunteers and churches are working to take one week each month to provide volunteers for this service (or, for smaller groups such as ours, to provide substitute volunteers as needed). Let Sue know if you would like to help with this. Sue is posting a notice about a service "Damariscotta FISH" providing free ride service to those in need locally. The new MOPC rental brochure is available in the foyer – please take any to distribute to groups you know who may be interested in renting our facility. Also, if you add a meeting to our calendar on the bulletin board, please let Sue know as well to help avoid conflicts with rentals at the same time.

The preschool that has rented our facility for a Saturday program (using pine boughs and greens for a spiral for the children to walk) for the last several years has again rented our worship room for that event for Saturday December 10th. They have offered to set it up Friday afternoon December 9th so that members of our Meeting could make use of it that evening. They will take it down before Sunday worship on the 11th. After discussion it was agreed that this could be a nice opportunity for an early evening social event for the Meeting, and Sue will ask them to set the spiral up accordingly. We will ask Guy to send an email notice about this event and the upcoming film in the occasional e-newsletter he has been kind enough to help distribute.

Sue has received a pdf of a poster from FCNL: "Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)" as a possible poster or banner for our meeting, and also as a possible bumper sticker or yard sign we could make available. Jim indicated that FCNL has bumper stickers available. It was agreed that we should pursue seeking a banner or yard sign for the Meeting grounds with this statement, and make bumper stickers available for Meeting members and attenders.

G. Other Business: Jim read and distributed a thank you letter from CHIP for the voluntary contributions from Meeting members that we recently sent them. We continue this month to collect voluntary contributions for Ramallah Friends School. Jim distributed the legislative priorities for the 115th Congress from the annual meeting of the FCNL he attended. It will be a challenging year for FCNL. He read a statement in support of refugees and in opposition to a potential registry for Muslims from the AFSC and it was agreed by the Meeting that we should as a Meeting sign this statement for distribution to newspapers and lawmakers.

TO OUR IMMIGRANT FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, COLLEAGUES, AND FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

WE SUPPORT AND HONOR YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS AND PLEDGE TO WORK TOWARDS BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF COMPASSION, DIGNITY, AND SAFETY FOR ALL

If individuals wish to sign this letter, the deadline is November 23: you should notify Diane Dicranian at dianedicranian@gmail.com. Brewster Grace pointed out two AFSC spokespersons have been invited to participate in the February, 2017 Camden Conference on Refugees. Anne Burt mentioned her desire to explore the Meeting's participation in a proposed sanctuary movement or effort on behalf of migrants facing deportation and family disruption next year. Brewster and Deborah felt this was an important discussion and Jim indicated we should continue to research what it would entail and continue talking about it in the weeks to come. Jim reported the FCNL capital campaign is nearly completed, raising \$14 million which will help to complete a new building and conference center in Washington, D.C. in the new year.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:55pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce L. Rockwood, recording clerk