

Minutes

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business
Damariscotta, Tenth Month 21, 2007

Clerk Peter Haviland called the session to order with a reading from Jan Hoffman. There were ten in attendance.

Pastoral Care – Carmen Lavertu gave a brief report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Carmen Lavertu reported. The committee has tentatively scheduled Tom Jackson's film "Out of Balance" on the subject of climate change for November 16. More films are being planned. State Senator Peggy Rotundo was an informative speaker at a recent meeting of the Maine Committee on Friends Public Policy (MCFPP). Specifically she remarked on the question of Native American casino gambling on the November ballot prompting a discussion among us. Some saw approval of the casino as enabling corruption, assuming a large percentage of the income goes to "Las Vegas interests". Some saw approval as affirming the sovereignty of Native Americans and not holding Native Americans to a higher standard than other U.S. citizens. Carmen will soon be hanging the "Torture Is Wrong" banner on the meetinghouse railing. Friends have not yet found unity about whether it should be removed for some occasions.

Ministry & Counsel – Linda Cote-Small reported. A date will be announced soon for the film "The Next Industrial Revolution" about the birth of a sustainable economy through the green movement. Andy Burt is consulting on this project. The committee continues to work on plans for its Winter Series on the subject of Quaker spirituality.

First Day School – Karen Cadbury reported her committee's difficulties with lack of children and lack of committee members. Gifts & Leadings is addressing the latter of these; however this was one more example of a natural cycle the meeting is undergoing. A helpful discussion ensued. There is a concern for lack of volunteers to go out with children when they arrive unexpectedly, allowing their parents to worship freely. Friends encouraged the committee to have curriculum and materials prepared so a potential volunteer need not be prepared in advance. They encouraged the committee to enlist volunteers from the broader meeting in advance. The need for the meeting to focus on attracting young families was reiterated.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – Paul Diamond and Stephen Gorry submitted a written report. Work has begun on parking lot lighting. Repairs to the ramp and porches have been made and the railing extension is complete. The report states, "The committee is still seeking to minimize our carbon footprint while balancing immediate needs of the building and grounds with continuing respect to the budget." Immediate needs remaining include freeze protection and furnace-overheat protection. The committee will initiate a "Frosty, Tender, Tush cushion Project".

Gifts & Leadings – Linda Cote-Small reported. Friends will please note the list of contact people for each type of volunteer support needed by the meeting during 2008. Please contact that person if you have questions or are led to volunteer. There is particular need for volunteers to serve on Ministry & Counsel.

Hospitality- Help is needed for Saturday, November 3 when we will host Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting. Ronda Nichols and Cathy Gass need assistance with children's activities and Hospitality needs sign-ups for food on the list in circulation.

Announcements – Friends are urged not to miss Quarterly Meeting November 2-3 at our meetinghouse. The program will center on Friends United Meeting (FUM): its many worthy projects and the issue surrounding its personnel policy.

No further business coming before the meeting it was adjourned following moments of silence, planning to meet next on Sunday, December 14 at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Haviland, Clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk