

MINUTES
MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS
Tenth Month 18, 2009

Co-Clerk Deborah Haviland opened with a reading from the *New England Faith and Practice*. A period of silent worship was followed by expressions of gratitude. A loving concern was expressed for Jean Crawford as she faced a major surgical procedure. Sixteen members and attenders were present.

Minutes of the September meeting for business were approved.

Correspondence Clerk read a thank-you letter from Janet Beerits expressing her appreciation and that of her family for the memorial meeting held for Henry Beerits. Rowan and Willow Rowntree have written to request membership in Midcoast Meeting.

A letter has been sent to Fresh Pond Meeting in Massachusetts regarding Holly Baldwin's membership status. Documents reporting on the "State of the Meeting" have been sent to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting and to New England Yearly Meeting.

Pete Haviland spoke briefly on behalf of Ministry and Counsel regarding the State of the Meeting reports.

Finance Committee Paul Diamond indicated that a goal of \$14,500 had been set for the budget in the coming year and that pledges had so far been made to the level of \$11,000. Rental income has been roughly \$750 out of a total of \$1,200 expected for the year.

Meeting House and Grounds Bill Hallet reported that mowing and raking had been concluded.

He also described the setting of the memorial stone for George Sparks with family members present. Some discussion was held as to whether a small additional fee would be asked of any future placements of memorial stones so as to cover the cost of continuing care. It was agreed that the meeting would maintain the area around the memorial stones in any event. No agreement was reached regarding the additional payment and the proposal was laid over for further seasoning.

A brief discussion was held about snow plowing after winter storms, especially the efforts made to clear ice and snow from the steps, ramp, and porch surfaces outside the meeting house.

There was no report from Pastoral Care.

Peace Center Linda Cote-Small reminded everyone that a gathering will be held on Monday evening (October 19th) with representatives from four congregations in the area to explore possible joint projects on Peace and Social Concerns issues.

There was no report from Religious Education.

Hospitality Two groups of "Friendly Eights" have been formed.

Gifts and Leadings An exploratory session will be held at the rise of meeting next Sunday, October 25th, to seek discernment as to which tasks and roles are essential to the well-being of the meeting. Substantial refreshments will be provided.

New Business The Damariscotta/New Castle Clergy Group is being revived. Participation by a member of the meeting was discussed and approved. Rachel McGuinness will attend the next session of the clergy group. [Nancy Booth had attended in previous years.]

A concern was raised to offer a gesture of appreciation to Jean Harris. After short discussion it was approved. Pastoral Care will select a suitable plant for Jean Harris and another for Jean Crawford.

A concern was raised whether the meeting might draft and send a "Letter to the Editor" urging a "No" vote on Proposition One so as to support Marriage Equality. After a range of responses and in light of the short time before the election, it was decided that the meeting would not undertake a collective letter on this subject but members were encouraged to send their own letters.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

The next meeting for business will be held on November 15th at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

Deborah Haviland, Co-Clerk

Jim Matlack, Interim Recording Secretary