

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

OCTOBER 17, 2010

Clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a reading from Faith and Practice followed by silent worship. Sixteen Friends were gathered. Several gratitudes were expressed.

The Minutes of Business Meeting for September 19th were approved.

A letter from Paul Diamond notified the meeting that he was resigning as treasurer due to Paul and Viki's impending move to California. Deep appreciation was expressed for Paul's service as Treasurer and for the many ways in which the Diamonds have enhanced the life of the meeting. A farewell gathering and pot-luck supper will be held at the meeting house on Friday, October 29th starting at 5:30 P.M.

Materials from Friends General Conference on Quaker Quest as well as New England Yearly Meeting texts for revision of Faith and Practice were both referred to Ministry and Counsel.

GIFTS AND LEADINGS - HIGHLIGHTED COMMITTEE

Mallory Waldman reported on the mission and functions of the committee as well as a number of suggestions brought forward in the "visioning" session on "the health of the meeting" arranged by the committee. Many suggestions have already been implemented. Discussion followed on the new pattern in which a different committee is highlighted for full assessment at each business meeting. Other committees will report only as needed each month. Clerks of the various committees should notify the Presiding Clerk in advance if they wish to be on the agenda.

Further discussion focused upon the shift from a "nominating" process which "filled" the committees to the present arrangement in which Gifts and Leadings encourages members of the meeting to identify the ways in which they are led to serve. How to have adequate participation and to fill specific leadership roles remains a challenge. Mallory will take the issues discussed back to the committee for further seasoning.

PEACE CENTER Brewster Grace reported on plans for future events. The "Fishes and Loaves" series and Guy Marsden's talk on "Sustainable Living" will take place this Fall. A speaker series on Iran, Korea, and Central America will be staged in the Spring if sufficient funding can be found. A grant proposal is pending with the Maine Humanities Council.

FINANCE Paul Diamond gave his last report as Treasurer. Overall the meeting is in good financial shape with increased assets in the amount of \$121,752. Resources are available to cover the cost of resurfacing the driveway—estimated at \$5,500. His report is attached.

The meeting expressed gratitude for Paul's service as Treasurer and discussed what arrangements should be made to handle banking and financial matters after Paul departs. Paul recommended and the meeting approved that Deborah Haviland be Interim Treasurer and that she and Bill Spock, Clerk of the Finance Committee be signatories at Key Bank. Linda Cote-Small, Martin Imm, Bill Spock, and Deb Haviland will confer further about a suitable interim set-up in the absence of a permanent Treasurer.

Linda Cote-Small conducted a financial review of the meeting accounts. Her report will be referred to the Finance Committee. Linda was thanked for her efforts on this project.

The regular meeting for business recessed and those members gathered reconvened as the Corporation of Midcoast Friends Meeting. The minutes for this are in the corporation notebook. Meeting for business resumed when the corporation adjourned.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS Approval was given for the necessary expenditures involved in resurfacing the driveway

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL A draft text was proposed to serve as a “Welcome to Newcomers” who may be attending a meeting for worship for the first time. In the discussion that followed a suggestion was approved to signal the break of meeting more clearly with a spoken “Good morning, Friends” along with the shaking of hands. It was also suggested that the draft of the “Welcome” document be supplemented by a brief description of the spiritual context for worship rooted in traditional Friends beliefs. The committee will reconsider the overall text and resubmit a revised draft to a future business meeting.

PASTORAL CARE Carmen Lavertu reported briefly on the “charge” for the committee and then proposed that a full discussion of the “Emergency Fund” be held at the November business meeting. She also suggested that the Newsletter contain a section noting the personal situations of Friends as appropriate.

OLD BUSINESS Texts of the Minutes and Notes from the Worship Sharing session on the “Health of the Meeting” will be available on the credenza. Friends should consult these documents which will be discussed at the November business meeting.

If there is a member of the meeting willing to attend regularly board meetings of the Maine Council of Churches, please notify the clerk.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be held on November 21st.

Deborah Haviland, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk