

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS OCTOBER 21, 2012

Twenty-three Friends gathered at the meeting house. David Cadbury served as Clerk.

At first the group came together as the “CORPORATION OF MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING” to hold a brief ANNUAL MEETING. Minutes of the previous meeting on September 18, 2011 were approved with an amendment noting that Martin Imm was Assistant Treasurer. Short positive reports were received on the financial status of the meeting and on the overall condition of the Meeting House and grounds. It was then moved, seconded, and agreed to adjourn the meeting.

[NOTE: See separate Minutes for this brief session.]

Friends then held a period of silent worship before the Clerk opened the regular Meeting for Business. Minutes from the September Business Meeting were approved. An Agenda Review raised up several additional items to be considered.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Bill Spock began the report by referring to the Minutes of a recent committee meeting including discussion of a possible endowment fund. The meeting approved having the Finance Committee investigate further the endowment idea with a view to a full report to Business Meeting at a later date.

Martin Imm then led a review of the budget tables including a new line item for “Building and Grounds.” Overall receipts are down at this time but significant pledges are outstanding. Friends were again encouraged to contribute to Ramallah Friends School.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS Guy Marsden described painting done on some exterior window frames but said that a more complete painting of exterior trim was due to be done in 2013. Under Linda Murray’s leadership the garden produced pumpkins that were donated to a local food pantry.

HOSPITALITY Committee members purchase staple supplies for refreshments at the rise of meeting and other occasions but volunteers are needed to sign up to bring snacks on specific Sundays. On November 4th the Halletts will host a meal at their home in lieu of the usual pot-luck. A breakfast will be served at the Meeting House before meeting on Sunday, December 9th. A meal is planned in the New Year to be shared with local Unitarians. A brunch is proposed at the Meeting House on December 30th.

Carmen Lavertu raised a concern for increased participation in Yearly Meeting sessions as well as Quarterly Meetings. She needs a ride to Cobscook for the upcoming Falmouth Quarterly Meeting.

PEACE CENTER Brewster Grace reported on a planned joint project with the First Congregational Church of Camden—a day-long seminar on “FARMING, FISHING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE.” A number of excellent resource persons have been identified to assist in this presentation next April. Fund-raising will be required to meet anticipated expenses, especially for out-of-state speakers. The topic links to the theme of the 2014 Camden Conference to be focused upon FOOD and WATER issues. A film series at the Meeting House is also planned. A request for additional funding may come to the meeting at a later date.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE Carmen Lavertu reported on committee meetings and possible outreach opportunities. Use of the Meeting House for special events or even as a drop-in center was under consideration. Carmen noted that a discussion group under the auspices of Senior College was planned for early weeks in 2013. This led to a discussion about the procedures under which the meeting house can be made available to outside groups. A simple form is now required to be filled out and given to the woman who has oversight of the building. Some complications in the arrangement (and fees) for the proposed discussion series would be avoided if it were to be put forward as a project of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and thus would be an internal meeting request for use of the space.

GIFTS AND LEADINGS Suzy Hallett noted that local clergy has formed a study group to focus on **homelessness** in Lincoln County. **George Chapman** volunteered to take part in this project as a representative of the Midcoast Meeting.

Deborah Haviland raised a concern over the open-ended way in which committee assignments and lead positions in the meeting are expected to be filled for the next annual cycle through volunteer sign-ups in the absence of a regular committee. By default Ministry and Counsel will have this process under its care. Deb suggested that in another year we might wish to re-constitute the Gifts and Leadings Committee.

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy Jim Matlack reported on his attendance at the FCMPP meeting in Waterville the day before. Once again FCMPP is in need of a new Clerk. Given sporadic support from Friends across the state, the future viability of the committee is in doubt. Yet it has given valuable service and witness over the last twenty years, especially on issues related to Maine Indians—e.g. the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission and the newly formed Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Child Welfare. Tribal leaders have expressed emphatic support for the continued work of FCMPP. The concern for the future of the committee and its leadership will be taken up at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting and again at the All-Maine Gathering in May, 2013.

David Cadbury, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk