

MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING MEETING FOR BUSINESS --- OCTOBER 19, 2014

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Clerk Suzy Hallett welcomed nineteen Friends in attendance. The Agenda was reviewed and MINUTES of the September Meeting for Business were approved.

PASTORAL CARE Willow Rowntree presented a written report: "Suggestions For Furthering Personal Connections Among the Meeting through Increased Listening Opportunities". The committee stated an intention to go beyond basic attention to the sick and elderly. They see an area for growth in the Spirit and in mutual understanding among meeting members as a form of "inreach." The central proposal is to create settings for "deep listening" to one another, especially with an openness to personal experiences and challenges in small group exchanges. After extensive discussion approval was given for the committee to launch a test of their proposal by scheduling group meetings on Sundays prior to regular meeting for worship. Attention should be given to issues of confidentiality as well as the interplay between Pastoral Care and Ministry and Counsel.

FINANCE Martin Imm distributed a chart showing that cumulative pledges for 2015 Budget support are now ahead of comparable pledges for 2014 a year ago. The average pledge has also increased. These data provide a sound basis for the 2015 meeting budget.

OUTREACH and MINISTRY AND COUNSEL Sue Rockwood noted that a Memorial Minute for Barbara Foust is needed. Her obituary notice could serve as a starting point. She also cautioned Friends to be sure to close and lock the front door of the meeting house and return the key to its hideaway.

Sue also described a program that she and Suzy Hallett will stage of the first Sundays of December, January, and February. Young children and their parent(s) will be encouraged to attend and to spend opening minutes in regular meeting. Then Sue and Suzy will take the children out for a planned program. In December the focus will be on Harvest and Stewardship with readings, discussion, and making applesauce that everyone can share in the Potluck Lunch to follow meeting. Friends are asked to be tolerant of additional noise and activity that may arise from including young newcomers to meeting.

ARCHIVES Pat Spock presented a written report that reviewed recent accomplishments—e.g. the death record book is up-to-date and a full review of meeting documents is under way to ascertain what should be kept and what may be missing. A separate book has Profiles of members. Two areas of discussion emerged: 1) should all members prepare a Profile for themselves and for meeting use? and 2) should all available Profiles be scanned on to the meeting web-site?

Guy Marsden raised a more fundamental query—How should the meeting arrange for the transition from written records to electronic records? Are written documents now obsolete and/or would on-line documents be difficult for some members to consult? Adequate response to this transition will have to be worked out over coming years. Sue Rockwood demonstrated that existing electronic back-files of the meeting Newsletter and Business Meeting Minutes can now be searched by Goggle.

PROGRAM/OUTREACH Jim Matlack reported on the “Bring It Home” event at the Meeting House at which participants in the N.Y.C. Climate March on September 21st shared their experiences after which local activists and groups spoke about ongoing programs in the area that respond to the challenges of Climate Change.

An event is scheduled at the Meeting House on November 23rd at which several participants will describe their experiences during the HEALING WALK at the Alberta Tar Sands site in Canada last summer. This annual event has been sponsored by indigenous First Nation peoples, especially the tribal groups whose land, forests, and water are being ravaged by tar sands extraction.

MEMORIAL STONES Memorial Stones on the Meeting House grounds have been chosen and paid for by family members. The question was raised (but not answered) whether the Meeting should seek to install a simple stone in memory of all current members at their death.

Carmen Lavertu informed Friends of a concern that has arisen in connection with Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting over the fate of LBGT Friends and others in Uganda who are subject to abuse, threats, and violence. She will place a relevant Minute in the next Newsletter.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: NOVEMBER 16th

Suzy Hallett -- Clerk

Jim Matlack -- Recording Clerk