

Midcoast Monthly Meeting Minutes 21 October 2018

Guy Marsden presiding, Ann Armstrong recording, Cark Albright, Jean Crawford, Barbara Gibson, Nancy Holmes, Martin and Judith Imm, Mary Lord, Jim Matlack, Rachel McGinness, Beedy Parker, Sue and Bruce Rockwood, Willow Rowntree, Patty Seybold, Polly Ullin present.

The meeting began with a period of open worship, after the clerk read “Authentic Leadership” from the 1985 NEYM Faith and Practice.

2018-10-1 **Minutes** of September were approved. The clerks were requested to post a printed copy of the minutes in the lobby.

2018-10-2 Willow Rowntree reported for **Pastoral Care Committee**. The informal remembrance meeting for Dick and Jean Harris was well attended by many of their friends. Some of Jean's paintings remain and can be sold. Nancy Booth is visited each Sunday which gives her niece time off from care taking. Meeting for worship with Claire Darrow continues to happen every couple of months and is next scheduled for Saturday October 27 at 10 am.

Willow presented statements of gratitude for Ann Armstrong and Mary Lord, both of whom are leaving the area this month. [appended]

2018-10-3 Guy Marsden noted that he had neglected to bring to the meeting the **transfer of Patricia Seybold** from Swarthmore Meeting. Patty was accepted gratefully into membership and Guy will send the appropriate acceptance letter to Swarthmore Meeting.

2018-10-4 Guy brought **sign up sheets for next years committee membership**. It was noted that only the Ministry and Counsel committee requires participants to also have membership in the Society of Friends. There was some discussion of reducing the responsibilities of Ministry and Counsel and how to fill out the needs of all the committees.

2018-10-5 Polly Ulin presented a proposal for **greeters at, and closers of, meeting for worship**. The proposal grew out of an informal discussion at the October Simple Soup lunch on October 7. Polly read the following responsibilities of greeters which was approved by the meeting after some minor editing. Attenders as well as members may serve as greeters/closers.

Greeter Responsibilities

At the Start of Meeting

Arrive at least a few minutes early and unlock the door. (Know where the key to the building is.)

Open doors to Worship Room and Fellowship Room.

Take out basket of hearing devices and turn on both audio-receivers in closet.

Greet people as they arrive. Welcome newcomers and answer questions or offer materials if they are new to Quaker worship.

Bring children into the Fellowship Room to join whoever is providing childcare.

Close doors to Worship Room at 10:00

Invite latecomers to wait quietly in a circle of chairs in the lobby.

Check that someone has started the coffee and turned on the water heater; do it if necessary.

Close door to Fellowship room as needed for quiet.

Open doors to Worship Room at 10:15 and invite people to go in. Close doors.

At the Close of Meeting

Break Meeting at 11:00 or shortly thereafter by standing, greeting everyone by saying: "Good morning, Friends" and shaking hands. Anyone speaking is allowed time to finish their message with a few minutes for reflection.

Open doors. Invite children to come in.

Ask Friends to introduce themselves by name and where they are from and add an "after-thought" if they wish.

Ask for announcements.

Invite Friends to gather for coffee and light refreshment (or "Simple Soup" on the first Sunday of the month) in the Fellowship Room.

Greeter will write on the bulletin board calendar the number of people present, including children in parentheses.

Invite visitors to sign the guest book.

Polly stated that during the informal discussion enough Friends signed up to be greeters that we are now covered through May of 2019.

2018-10-6 **Mary Lord** has offered the meeting the **silver tea service** given to her parents, Lemuel Kingsbury Lord, a Methodist minister, and Doris Wyman Lord both of whom were raised in Maine. The meeting accepted this gift with gratitude. A concern was brought forward that the set be stored appropriately.

2018-10-7 Guy reported for **House and grounds**. NEYM has started an initiative to assess the carbon footprint of the YM. Guy suggested that the meeting do a **full energy audit** with Topher Belknap. Guy would give his services free and Topher is willing to reduce his price so the meeting would have only \$300 in expense. The audit would clarify the carbon footprint the meeting and offer suggestions for efficiency improvement. Friends requested that the audit include the plowing and mowing costs along with the cost of the meetinghouse. Friends approved pursuing the audit. The audit should happen in November and a report be ready for the December meeting.

2018-10-8 Guy reported on his research about using **heat pumps** rather than the oil fired furnace. 3 estimates ranged from \$18,000 to \$22,000 for the whole building. The meeting agreed that it does not seem fiscally prudent to pursue heat pumps at this time.

2018-10-9 Sue Rockwood reported for **MOPC**. All of our usual support programs (food bank, diaper bank, PUAR) continue to thrive. She has received good feedback about the meeting's sponsorship of the movie Dawnland. Sue will again be doing some traveling as her part of serving on NEYM's Legacy Committee. There has been a request for a women's day retreat.

Peter Hull, who grew up in the meeting wants to rent the building for a wedding next year. The meeting asked Sue to welcome him and to ask that he make a contribution toward the cleaning of the building rather than charging the regular fee.

December 1 will again see the **Children's Winter Celebration** at the meeting house. All are welcome to attend. Sue suggested that the first Sunday of December also be a day to decorate the building for the holidays.

December 8 will be a day long **Wabanaki Reach** Training program.

Lisa Steele Maley has recently published a book about her journey with her father's dementia. She would like to do something with the meeting to celebrate the book. Sue will talk to her to see how much of an event Lisa would like.

Bruce Rockwood noted that 2019-2020 is Maine's sesquicentennial. He would welcome any suggestions for events in relation to that anniversary.

Sue noted that NEYM's **Faith and Practice** review committee has sent out two new chapters for comments. The working titles are Pastoral Care and Dying Death and Bereavement. You can access these chapters on line at **[link]**

2018-10-10 Bruce Rockwood, for the **Finance** committee, noted that the bookkeeper's quarterly profit and loss report was available. We have had a total of \$10,195.89 in revenue since June 1 and have spent a total of \$4775.74.

Bruce is planning to set up a savings account to hold the funds that are set aside for special purposes like the Rachel Carey Harper gift and the bequest from Carolyn Miller. The meeting approved this action.

Anyone wanting the routing numbers in order to set up a direct regular donation to the meeting should contact Bruce.

Bruce is working on a report of our past use of oil and electricity.

The meeting closed with a period of open worship.

Statement From Midcoast Meeting of Friends to Mary Lord in
Loving Recognition and Gratitude for Her Time Among Us

Mary's grasp of Quakerism and Quaker practice has been an example for us all. A wise and trusted Friend, she has been a sensitive and thoughtful clerk for Ministry and Counsel and represented us well in the wider community of Friends. Mary has often moved us with vocal ministry, sometimes inspiring us with a song out of the silence. She has provided guidance as the meeting has been healing from some difficulties.

All of this she also has done simply, sometimes with quiet humor and always with graceful humility borne from her strong faith and her acceptance and support of that of God in each of us.

Statement From Midcoast Meeting of Friends to Ann Armstrong in Loving Recognition and Gratitude for Her Time Among Us

Ann has served as Recording Clerk with patience, efficiency and attention to detail. She has gently modeled for us how to care lovingly for one another as we've gone about Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Ann has also taken on Hospitality and other Meeting work, serving with cheerful dedication despite some of her physical limitations.

She has been active in wider Quaker gatherings. She has made these gatherings real for the rest of us by her reports, sharing openly, not only details of the gatherings' substance, but also her deep personal experience with other Quakers and their concerns.