

Minutes

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business
Damariscotta, Ninth Month 16, 2007

Clerk Pete Haviland opened the session with moments of worshipful silence. There were fourteen in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Diamond

The effort to curtail lawn mowing expenses has proved successful. Meetinghouse and Grounds now has a yearly capital budget not just an operating budget.

Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee – Claire Darrow

After hearing a written report, the meeting **approved** Item 1 (completion of railing on handicapped access ramp and Item 2 (introduction of a system of lighting in the parking lot) of four proposals made. It proposed the committee proceed with the railing and lighting as quickly as possible. The meeting encouraged the committee to explore Item 3 (solar panel on roof), Item 4 (purchase of electric heat-on-demand water heater) as well as various security measures within the meetinghouse (Guy Marsden offered to provide a security arrangement for the new electronic equipment if the committee decides it is appropriate.) The meeting invited the Finance Committee, in the light of our overall financial situation, to review projects under consideration with Meetinghouse & Grounds and to make recommendations to a future meeting for business.

Ministry & Counsel – Willow Rowntree

The committee recommends renewed activities in Creative Listening and a new round of Friendly Eights get-togethers, perhaps combining the two if a new group so chooses. Friends **approved** and Nancy Booth volunteered to organize the project. The committee would share its booklets on Creative Listening. The Rowntrees and Deb Haviland are happy to consult. Two opportunities for spiritual enrichment are open to us: New England Yearly Meeting's year long Spiritual Transformation Program and Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting's Listening to the Spirit weekend at Cobscook October 5 – 7. Ministry & Counsel's Fall activities, open to the public, include: September 27 – the film "An Angel for May", October 25 – the film "The Thinking Heart" about Etty Hillesum and a film to be announced for November 8 or 15. For Winter 2008 the committee is planning a panel series on "What about Quakerism is important to the way we lead our lives now and in the future?" Suggestions of speakers are welcome.

Pastoral Care – Deb Haviland

The clerk will send a note of appreciation to Charlottesville (VA) Meeting for their loving care for Sally Wood and their hospitality to Deb while she visited Sally. Henry Beerits, who is at Cove's Edge, welcomes brief visits.

Peace & Social Concerns – Carmen Lavertu

Tuesday, October 23 the film “Ghosts of Abu Ghraib” will be shown at the meetinghouse. It is co-sponsored by Midcoast UU. Saturday, December 1 is the date for the Alternative Gift Fair, sponsored by Midcoast UU at the Skidompha Library. Andy Burt continues to represent us at Midcoast UU meetings. We can help by volunteering and/or donating items for the Food Sale Table. Peace & Social Concerns is planning to show the documentary “Out of Balance” about oil/Exxon-Mobil on a date to be announced. Carmen’s course on War, Peace & Elections is currently being offered at the Senior College in Rockland. All are welcome.

Religious Education

Appreciation was expressed for Sally Tukey’s help with childcare at the recent quarterly meeting. The clerk will call Sally or Karen Cadbury for an update on the committee’s plans and specifics regarding our ad in “Friends Journal”.

Hospitality – Deb Haviland

Please sign up to provide first day refreshments. Deb will schedule a new members’ reception after checking available dates with Brewster Grace and Jim Matlack.

New England Yearly Meeting Sessions / Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Reports – Carmen Lavertu

NEYM approved a minute to Friends United Meeting (FUM) asking for continued dialogue about their personnel policy and encouraging FUM to pursue the study of sexuality. A focus at VQM was Quaker process and how it differs from ordinary discussion. Pete Haviland reported we may use some of these suggestions in our meetings for business.

Other Concerns

Penobscot Bay Medical Center is enrolling a new class for pastoral visitors. See Diane Kirkman or call Rev. Laura Edwards at 596-8546 for further information.

Announcements

We will host a potluck supper for a group of 6-8 from FUM on October 9 or 10. They will be touring meetings in the region as organized by Betsy Muench. We will host VQM here on November 3, preceded by Quarterly Ministry and Counsel on November 2. Some overnight hospitality and youth activities/childcare during the meeting will be needed. We will ask the Religious Education Committee to be in touch with Ronda Nichols and Cathy Gass about the latter. We will provide a program for the adults. Suggested topics were Creative Listening and environmental initiatives at our meetinghouse. The recording clerk will provide Carole Beal with information about the event in time for the quarterly newsletter.

No further business coming before the meeting it adjourned following moments of silence, planning to meet next on Sunday, October 21. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Haviland, Clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk