

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business -- September 20, 2015

A. Clerk Jim Matlack called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 am and began with a few minutes of silent worship. Ten people attended, later joined by an eleventh. Agenda was approved, followed by approval of the minutes of the July 19, 2015 business meeting.

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

Clerk Bruce Rockwood being absent, David Cadbury reported for the committee:

- a. A revised "Minute of Change of Financial Officers for Fiscal Year June 1, 2015- May 31, 2016 " was amended to replace Bruce Rockwood's title from "Chair" to "Clerk." The Business Meeting approved the amended minute. (See first attachment to these minutes.)
- b. The key to the Meeting's safety deposit box has yet to be found. If former treasurer Paul Diamond does not, on the off chance, have a key, a new key will need to be made, for the probable fee of \$280.
- c. The Four Winds Development Fund investment has been changed as approved by the July Meeting for Business: \$ 5,000 to be rolled over and \$5,000 refunded to the Meeting.
- d. The Finance Committee has engaged the outside consulting firm of Gordon and LeClaire to independently review all finance processes and procedures. After this review, the committee will consult professional bookkeepers about the best methods of bookkeeping.
- e. Payroll is being handled by a professional payroll organization, and bills are being paid by the Meeting's treasurer as usual.

Martin Imm presented and the Business Meeting accepted the final year end report covering June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015 (Second attachment):

Receipts were slightly greater than budgeted. Expenditures were greater than budgeted. The budget deficit was \$2630. Despite the strain on last year's budget, total assets increased by \$3,846.00, largely because of performance of investments.

The costs for replacing the pump are thought to be between \$1500 and \$1600.

2. Ministry and Counsel Committee

Co-clerk Suzy Hallet reported for the committee:

- a. M&C is looking to expand their committee by two or three new members.
- b. Dianne Kirkman has again expressed her desire to be relieved of doing the Meeting newsletter. No one has as yet shown interest. Discussion followed as to how the newsletter responsibility might be divided among two or more people. Suggestions are welcome.

3. Meetinghouse and Grounds Committee

Steve Gorry reported:

A suitable pole has been found from Sally Cartwright's property. From this pole, Steve will fashion a Peace Pole: 8-sided, 8 feet high, painted a light color. Each side will have the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," each in a different language. The pole will be installed in honor of the Meeting's 20th anniversary and will be in place by our Oct. 4th celebration.

The Meeting agreed that the languages on the pole would include the 5 official languages of the United Nations plus 3 others to be selected.

4. Pastoral Care Committee

Co-clerk Willow Rowntree reported

a. Participants of Pastoral Care's second Listening Workshop on Sept. 19 have expressed a desire to continue with group listening experiences. Those who attended the first workshop in July, as well as some who are interested but were unable to attend either workshop, have also said they want a chance to participate.

b. Willow described the process used, which is based on the work of Rachel DuBois, the developer of "Quaker Dialogues." A particular characteristic of the process is silent listening, reacting to the speaker solely through empathetic presence.

The Meeting approved a request from the PC committee to continue offering similar listening experiences at varied times and dates to make them accessible to more people.

c. Willow and Carmen LaVertu, representing the Pastoral Care Committee, agreed that Ministry and Counsel has the purview to set up Friendly 8's. The prior year Judith and Martin Imm had set-up Friendly 8's on an ad hoc basis, not because Judith was a PC member.

5. Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center

a. Brewster Grace reported that the center is working on plans and proposals for funding for a six-speaker series with the theme of, "How do we respond to humanitarian needs?" Brewster cited a wide range of needs, including the pressures being put on Europe to absorb refugees, the suffering of those fleeing from civil war in the Middle East, people being forced from their villages by climate change, indigenous peoples losing their livelihoods, the problems being experienced by Maine's fishermen and farmers.

b. Brewster introduced "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups." (See 3rd attachment) This statement was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. In response the Meeting approved the following minute:

Minute: The Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business approves and agrees to be a signatory to "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups."

Brewster will inform representatives of QEW, QUNO, AND FCNL of this minute.

c. Brewster gave the Meeting's library a copy of "Call to Conscience: Quaker experiences in facing the challenge of Climate Change." This document can be downloaded from www.quno.org/areas-of-work/human-impacts-climate-change.

d. Sue Rockwood reported plans for upcoming outreach efforts focusing on parenting and other family interests. Andy Burt's film will be a possible program.

e. Sue described plans for the Meeting's 20th anniversary celebration: a potluck on Oct. 4th and installation of a permanent Peace Pole near the walkway into the meetinghouse. Sue asked for people to check the list of those who should receive a special e-mail invitation, to send specially made postcards, and to bring mementos on the day to share. Sue is making a scrapbook of the construction of the meetinghouse. The main courses for the potluck are already offered; other courses will be appreciated.

6. **Other Business/Special Concerns**

a. Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will be held Saturday, November 7, 2015, 8:30-3:00.

b. Carmen brought two special concerns before the business meeting: increasing militarism of the country and ongoing racism. She asked, "What can friends do?" and suggested a meeting-wide worship sharing on these issues.

The business meeting supported David Cadbury's recommendation that Ministry and Counsel may be regularly approached by individuals who would like to request that M&C set up worship sharing to address important issues such as those Carmen brought forth.

Carmen mentioned an ongoing dialogue available through Senior College. this study group meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. She will put details on this and other resources in the newsletter.

Clerk Jim Matlack closed the Business Meeting after a brief silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Willow Rowntree