

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
September 18, 2016. [The Eighteenth Day of the Ninth Month].**

1. James Matlack, Clerk, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:35am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions and after additions the agenda was approved by consensus. 29 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, including 2 preschool children that Sue Rockwood provided childcare for, and 10 participated in Meeting for Business.

2. The Minutes of the July Meeting for Business were approved after clarifying a question by Deborah Haviland concerning the amended June Minutes.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Pastoral Care. Jean Crawford. The next listening session will be after Meeting for Worship and the social hour on September 25. The next Meeting for Worship with Claire Darrow will be Wednesday October 5, 2016 at 10am at the Governor's Lodge, Topsham. About 10 friends and family members attend these quarterly sessions. We continue to hold in the light various meeting members with health issues and wish them recovery. In particular the Rowntree's are appreciative of the meals members have prepared for them during Willow's treatment. Carolyn Miller would like to attend but is unable, and would welcome visitors; she is staying at the 3rd floor of the Anderson Inn, Quarry Hill, Camden. Suzy Hallett's daughter Alice and Jim Matlack's wife Jean are both recovering from surgery.

B. Hospitality. Rachel McGinness. People using the Meeting House are encouraged to recycle organic material and not put it in the trash. Sue Rockwood noted that the Challenge of Change group began fall meetings this past Tuesday and she will remind them.

C. Meeting House and Grounds. Guy Marsden. On Saturday October 1, Guy Marsden and Bruce Rockwood will work with a spokesman from ReVision Energy to present the opportunity for a solar farm on our grounds in a program from 10am-12:30am. ReVision coordinated with Sue Rockwood from MOPC to edit and prepare a press release and print advertisements to make the program widely available. Meeting members who are interested are encouraged to attend. Guy has sent a notice of the event to the Meeting email list. Alexander Rockwood and Guy Marsden spent four hours Saturday clearing brush by the entrance to improve the line of sight driving out of the parking lot, and in the center of the entrance, and Alex worked on removing ants from the children's sandbox and put cinnamon around the sandbox to discourage their return. Sue Rockwood added the Passamaquoddy language version of "May Peace Prevail on Earth" to the Peace Pole installed last year, and noted that there is room for one more language to be added and welcomed suggestions. Guy indicated that they plan to pressure wash and clean the deck in the near future.

D. Finance Committee and Treasurer Reports. Bruce Rockwood. David Cadbury has resigned as Treasurer due to illness, and James Matlack will serve as Interim Treasurer

until December. Bruce Rockwood said that Karen Cadbury reported to him that they have yet to hear from NEYM concerning the performance of the NEYM Pooled Funds. Bruce plans to call NEYM next week to see what the problem is in getting this information, and will call a Finance Committee Meeting in the next few weeks to discuss our investment strategy. Bruce Rockwood and James Matlack prepared and Susan Rockwood copied, stuffed and mailed out the annual pledge letter to member and attenders earlier this past week. If you did not get it, let us know your updated mailing address and if you would prefer to receive it by email (the mailed version includes a form to complete and a return envelope, however).

E. *Ministry and Counsel.* Sue Rockwood. Sue reported that all Meeting Committees need new members, and while sign-up sheets are again posted in the reception area for next year, she encouraged current and future committees to consider calling special work days and requesting general Meeting volunteer support when they have particular programs they wish to carry out. Suzy Hallett's half hour mid-week Silent Worship on Wednesdays from 0900 to 0930 has been welcomed by many and she plans with Meeting approval to lengthen the sessions, and this was welcomed by those at Meeting this morning. George Chappell reported on his experience at VQM held this year at Friends' Camp and found it most welcoming. Anne D. Burt's film was shown and much discussed. Sue also reported she has posted a newspaper article about the retirement of Carl Albright, who continues to volunteer in supporting the twice monthly Monday night "Non-Violent Communication" discussion group at the Meeting House. She noted that over the summer potlucks were not well supported, and she provided most of the food for the September first Sunday potluck. She asked that members remember that First Sunday combines a children's program and a community-wide potluck lunch, and encourages more participation. Bruce Rockwood noted that there has not been a book discussion or discussion group since we completed the Rufus Jones discussion, and pointed out that the Coastal Senior College is offering three religious-related courses this fall term which may interest Meeting members: see http://coastalseniorcollege.org/?page_id=2023 for details.

F. *MOPC.* Sue Rockwood reported on the detailed schedule of programs and events being held at the Meeting in September and October, and pointed out that she has little help. She restarted the children's program and got the planned lesson in the paper (page A3). A new attender's children are young and need child care. Sue asked for help as she has been covering childcare for three weeks in a row and wishes to Worship. Other families with children that she is in contact with are out of town, working on Sundays, or dealing with family member health issues. Sue is grateful for sandbox work and the ant problem in building being addressed. Challenge of Change is underway. Sue pointed out that cooler weather means we need to close interior doors when the building is not in use because they separate different heating zones.

Upcoming events include the October 1st solar event at the Meeting. Ads and press releases in local papers were provided by ReVision Energy. Sunday, Oct 2nd is world Quaker day in addition to the children's program and potluck. Sue asked if there is interest in doing anything to mark the day and if so to communicate with her. She also shared that she has put the Passamaquoddy version of "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on

the Peace Pole we erected last year, and we have one more side to fill. Other possible events include Anne Burt's proposal to provide a fund-raising meal in support of CHIP; Brewster may hold movie nights; Patty Seybold's climate group may take up Andy's workbook, and we may be connecting with restorative justice if interest continues. Our latest special collection, to benefit CHIP, yielded \$285. Sue asked if anyone wants to suggest the next beneficiary.

There will be a meeting of the MOPC Program Committee Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 10am at the Meeting House. Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome to attend. Sue pointed out that she feels she has fulfilled her original scope of responsibilities, that we have accomplished almost all potential activities areas that we had originally planned, and that given the age, health and size of the Meeting, we are at her capacity. She has been volunteering much personal time for things like rental arrangements, building work, mailings for the Meeting as well as MOPC, etc. and cannot take on any more projects by herself. If the level of programming planned at the moment is not reaping the increased interest in the Meeting we had hoped for, and if the Meeting were not to have grants to subsidize Sue's work, it may be a burden for the Meeting that is not be feasible to maintain. Guy Marsden thanked Sue for her excellent work on behalf of MOPC and maintaining "the heart of the Meeting," and James Matlack asked that the minutes reflect the sense of the Meeting for Business that we highly valued the work that Susan has done and continues to perform on its behalf.

G. Other Business: (1.) George Chappell indicated his proposal in July's Meeting for Business proved not to be practical.

(2.) James Matlack reported on two time sensitive proposals to have our Meeting "host" programs next May, and both were discussed: One is for an all-Maine gathering of VQM and Falmouth QM on May 6, 2017, which we decided was too complex for our small meeting to handle. The second is for hosting the NEYM Ministry and Counsel meeting on May 20, 2016 from 9am to 3:30pm. Apparently there will be 30-40 attendees, some of whom might need us to provide friendly overnight accommodation. However, we would not be responsible for the program, and could provide lunch, and it was agreed to tentatively agree we could host this event provided not more than 10 or so folks would need to be provided overnight accommodation by us, given the challenges the meeting faces with our generally older membership many of whom have health issues. Bruce Rockwood pointed out that hosting this event might be helpful in making NEYM aware of the work we are doing for Outreach and getting continued support of this endeavor.

(3.) James Matlack reported on the work of the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP), which will hold a meeting on Thursday, September 22nd, at 5pm in Winthrop Center. He distributed a letter FCMPP has sent to legislators in support of Native American protests against the North Dakota Pipeline. The text of NEYM talking points was also distributed.

(4.) Bruce Rockwood reported (as did Jim Matlack) that the CLC YMCA and Damariscotta police department are offering an addition support training program

Monday, September 19th, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm in the Town Hall, Damariscotta. Bruce also reported he had learned from the Restorative Justice coordinator in town (Nadejda Stancioff, email: nadejda@rjpmidcoast.org) that Maine Equal Justice Partners is holding "legislative listening sessions" to discuss how to make systems better for low income Mainers to help them meet basic needs, such as food, housing, healthcare, and income. The two sessions are in S. Portland on September 21st from 1pm-4:30PM at The Opportunity Alliance, 50 Lydia Lane, S. Portland, ME 04106; and in Bangor on October 12th from 1pm to 4:30pm at a place TBA. Also, URock and New Hope for Women are putting on a training session "Nurturing and Guiding Children of Domestic Violence" Tuesday, October 11th 4pm-6pm at the University College at Rockland. Bruce also reported he had mentioned to Nadejda last week that some of our members have expressed an interest in a restorative justice book group.

4. ***Closing Worship*** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:45pm.

5. After the close of Meeting for Business, the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Midcoast Friends was held and completed.

6. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for October 16th, 2016 (the Sixteenth Day, Tenth Month).

Respectfully submitted,
James Matlack, Clerk, and
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk