

Midcoast Monthly Meeting  
Minutes 17 September 2017

The meeting began with open worship with 14 Friends present.

**2017-09-01 Minutes** of July were approved with no corrections.

**2017-09-02 Pastoral Care** members gave brief reports on how they have been keeping in touch with various Friends who are no longer able to attend.

**2017-09-03** Guy Marsden reported for **House and Grounds**. The refrigerator passed an energy audit showing less than a \$7 monthly energy cost. Guy expressed his appreciation for Jack Banta - the meeting cleaner for pointing out maintenance issues to Guy so there can be timely work done, like removing branches from the tree in front of the meetinghouse that were rubbing on the roof shingles.

The diaper house is now complete. Peter Hallett did most of the work and made the building match the appearance of the meetinghouse. An unnamed donor donated over \$9000 for the construction. Guy finished by installing shelves, stairs and solar lighting. The opening ceremony for the diaper house is scheduled for October 3 at 10 am. The seven churches involved and the three managers have all been invited. The ceremony will include the installation of a chair with teddy bear to remind all why the diapers are needed.

The solar farm co-op members and Revision staff are planning to come at noon on Sunday October 8 to celebrate the beginning of the farm. It was noted that this is also "Pumpkin Fest" weekend, so we decided on just a small public announcement of the celebration with Guy to take photos and someone to write a description of the event for Sue Rockwood to edit and send to the paper.

Guy reported that most of the new plantings near the solar farm are doing well.

**2017-09-04** Ann Armstrong reported on the work that was done at New England Yearly Meeting around institutional racism and white supremacy. The work included the plenary talk by Ruby Sales, and evening session reporting on what work has been done around the yearly meeting since last year, and two very deep threshing sessions. Both Ruby Sales talk and the evening presentation should be available on the NEYM website. Various Friends also mentioned other useful resources including the movie [42](#) about Jackie Robinson, the movie [Hidden Figures](#), the book [Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship](#), and another anti slavery friend Peter Taylor.

Friends decided to pursue finding a time to listen to the Ruby Sales talk to come to terms with and keep sensitive to the issues around racism.

**2017-09-05** Willow Roundtree read the report from the joint meeting of **Ministry and Counsel and Pastoral Care committees**.

Mary Lord then presented the first recommendation from the report that we try an experiment for three months of holding meeting for worship for the conduct of business in the worship room. We would then re-evaluate the experience at the end of the three months.

After much discussion of the pros and cons of meeting in the two different rooms, **Friends approved trying this experiment for the next three months**, reminding each other that we will need to be: efficient about our use of the social time between worship and worship with attention to business; sit compactly in the meeting room, and keep the batteries charged within the hearing devices.

Friends then took up the second recommendation from the report, that of forming a Naming Committee to find officers for the meeting each year while continuing to have committee membership be open for Friends to self select in the fall. Friends expressed quite diverse opinions, including sharing around past history of the meeting, the need to update the committee handbook, concerns around outreach and not overwhelming new attenders with requests to serve in many capacities, a need for better communication, a request for all to put hearts and minds to considering why attendance has dropped, and many noting how we need to heal and relearn to trust the meeting.

**Friends were not in unity** about having a naming committee which leaves Ministry and Counsel serving defacto as the body that names the officers of the meeting for approval by the meeting.

Guy told Friends that he is quite willing to expand the meeting e-news and through that medium share more of our processes and even our own personal stories.

Ministry and Counsel and Pastoral Care are still working on how to reach out to disaffected Friends.

**2017-09-05** Bruce Rockwood reported for the **Finance** committee. They sent out the annual pledge letter this past week. Patty Sebol and Bruce will be meeting with the bookkeeper soon to discuss the logistics of the meeting buying an online subscription to QuickBooks. Bruce also presented a finance report showing the usual expenses of the meeting have been paid for as well as paying in full for the seat cushions for which many in the meeting made special contribution to the meeting. Income since the beginning of the fiscal year (June 1) has included nearly \$9,000 specifically for the Diaper House. Our current cash on hand as of 9/16/2017 is \$17,716.50.

Friends were reminded that when mailing contributions to use the meeting mailing address: PO Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543.

**2017-09-06** Sue Rockwood reported for the **Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center**. The meetinghouse is seeing increased use including last minute requests. Friends are asked to please check the on line and with Sue about adding something to the meeting calendar.

Brewster Grace is seeking a \$1000 possible matching grant from the Maine Humanities Council to support the activities of People United Against Racism. In order to do this, he asks that we pledge \$900 of the \$2000 gift the meeting received a year or so ago from NEYM Friend. (the remaining \$100 would hopefully come from the other churches.)

**Friends approved the provisional use of \$900 for this matching fund.**

Friends expressed appreciation for all the hard work that Sue does for MOPC and the meeting.

The clerk closed the meeting after making the following announcements, reminders:

As usual there will be a Quaker Table at the Common Ground Country Fair. They can always use more volunteers.

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting is holding a "Leadership" retreat for Friends at our meetinghouse on October 7.

Friends Committee on National Legislation is holding their annual lobby days in Washington DC on November 2-3 just before their annual meeting on November 4-5. Friends are encouraged to attend one or both.