

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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Recording Clerk:
Bruce Rockwood, 350-2256

Newsletter—June 2015
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June

Sunday	June 7	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	June 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	June 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	June 22	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

July

Sunday	July 5	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	July 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	July 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	July 20	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

For new, revised, and updated calendar items, please see our online calendar at:

<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

~Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.~

Sunday Meeting for Worship 10 a.m. at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta
Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757.

Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Rd. (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north—Miles Home Health Care building on the corner). The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, .2 mile from the corner.

Moving? Changing your e-mail address? *Don't forget to let us know. Please remember that when you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you save the Meeting money and lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com a request. Thanks!*

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:

www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business--24, 2015

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 16 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved after adding several items under 'other business.' The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved as written in the Newsletter.

2. Committee Reports.

A. **Finance.** Deborah Haviland presented the spreadsheet for the **2015-2016 budget, which was approved** as written after brief discussion. Jim Matlack on behalf of the Meeting thanked Bill Spock, Deborah Haviland and Martin Imm for their hard work on preparing the budget again.

B. **Ministry & Counsel.** Suzy Hallett asked that the Minutes today reflect a **Minute of Appreciation for the work of Bill Spock, Deborah Haviland, and Martin Imm for their years of service as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively.** She reported that Ministry & Counsel had met last Thursday at length discussing candidates who are members of the Meeting for the open positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Tom Hagan had previously been nominated to be Assistant Treasurer, and since Deborah Haviland has asked to step down as of May 31 as Treasurer, Ministry & Counsel after consulting with potential candidates has asked **David Cadbury to serve as Treasurer**, and he has agreed and is delighted to **work with Tom Hagan as Assistant Treasurer as of June 1.** *These nominations were approved by the Meeting after brief discussion*, and it was asked to record this action in the Minutes of the Meeting.

It was pointed out that as the Assistant Treasurer's role is to oversee and balance the financial statements of the Meeting, **check writing authority and access to banking records for the Meeting should be vested in the Clerk, James Matlack, and the Treasurer, David Cadbury, as of June 1, 2015.** *Assistant Treasurer Tom Hagan should also have access to the on-line banking records of the Meeting* to facilitate balancing accounts and reporting on the financial picture of the Meeting at meeting for business, and this action is also recorded in these Minutes.

Process for nominating officers was discussed, and Sue Rockwood reported on what the Guidance on Officers and Committees is in *Faith & Practice*, our Bylaws, and decisions taken at Meeting for Business (Feb, 2012, Nov, 2012, Sept 2013, Sept 2014 and Jan 2015, as recorded in our Minutes which are available on-line) which reflect our current practice of having Ministry & Counsel posting sign-ups for committee and officer positions and reporting them to meeting for business for approval. Each committee then selects its own clerk. A suggestion was made that when officer vacancies occur, Ministry & Counsel should also solicit suggestions for nominees from other committee clerks. Sue Rockwood distributed the new list of committee positions and asked that names of clerks be reported to her once they are chosen so that the list can be updated accordingly.

Deborah Haviland noted that the Meeting has a safe deposit box with our old bank, Damariscotta Bank & Trust, which may contain the deed to the building and records of conscientious-objector statements made in the past. It was suggested to investigate whether we still need a safe deposit box, and if so, whether to move it to our new bank. The new Finance Committee will conduct a search for the keys, as otherwise there is a fee to request a new key, whether we keep the current box or obtain a new one.

Ministry & Counsel is still searching for someone to volunteer to take over maintaining the database used for the directory and mailing labels from Pat Spock, who has asked to step down from this position. She uses an older version of Microsoft Access and has given her files on a disc to Sue Rockwood, to help with transfer of the process. Bill Spock pointed out we use the database to print labels for the annual pledge letter which will go out in June, and the labels for this year have been prepared already. The database is also used to determine our annual contribution to New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) based on current membership. Diane Kirkman is also asking for someone to take over preparing the monthly newsletter, though she is willing to continue preparing it until a replacement is found.

Suzy Hallett indicated that as previously requested, committees have submitted to M&C their reports on their work for the annual State of the Society report to NEYM. Some are quite lengthy, and it was agreed that M&C would do a cover letter and brief summary of these reports and otherwise submit the committee reports in a package to NEYM. While NEYM would like these reports by June 1, it was agreed to first prepare the cover letter and package and circulate it before the June meeting for business for approval then before submitting it to NEYM.

M&C reports that the Rockwoods are requesting transfer letters of their membership from Millville Monthly Meeting in PYM to our Meeting. Bruce and Alexander are seeking transfer letters now, while Sue is waiting to see if Alianne can remain a MMM member on her own as she is active in PYM activities, before Sue will transfer her membership here.

Suzy Hallett, Sue Rockwood, Carmen Lavertu, Anne Burt and Jean Crawford attended a workshop sponsored by Freeport Meeting at Friends Camp in China, Maine, and presented by New York Yearly Meeting, on "conflict transformation" in meetings, which included

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presentations, examples, and small-group role-playing. M&C feels this would be a worthwhile workshop to bring to our Meeting and it was agreed that M&C should proceed to see if a half- or full-day workshop can be planned over the summer.

C. **Midcoast Outreach & Peace Center (MOPC).** There is a possible new grant from the Shoemaker Fund for three years of support for MOPC work. Karen Cadbury will continue working on this and other grant proposals and report back as information becomes available. Sue Rockwood reported on the successful presentation this past Thursday evening to 23 in attendance here by Dan Asher Filstein (an apprentice at The Carpenter's Boatshop) on volunteer efforts to help prevent migrant deaths on the Arizona-Mexico border by the group No More Deaths. <http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/en/> This is the first in a series of presentations being planned with the leadership of Brewster Grace and the Program Committee for the coming months on human-rights crises in Maine and around the world and how they impact us here in Maine and how we can help. More information and dates will be forthcoming.

D. **Meetinghouse & Grounds.** Guy Marsden reported that one older toilet had been replaced by professionals, but that he has investigated costs and will replace the other one himself. He has also repaired the bent railing on the front porch. He distributed a photo of the current Meeting sign and the MOPC sign, and there was discussion on how to replace or update the sign(s). It was agreed that MOPC and H&G would discuss this matter and report back in the future. Steve Gorry reported that he has investigated the costs of cleaning, repairing cracks and repainting the interior of the meetinghouse, and feels that it would be most affordable to do it ourselves over a period of weekends, so that costs would be limited to materials and supplies. It may be that washing the walls will be sufficient in the worship room. Suggestions for colors to consider for paint are solicited, and Suzy Hallett agreed to work with him on this subject. Requests for paint color suggestions will be mentioned at a subsequent rise of worship, and in the newsletter, to ensure all voices are heard. He thanked those who had helped trim the bushes on the islands in the parking lot, and plans to find small shrubbery to give the islands a more professional look. It was agreed that while mowing the lawn, a clear path between the meetinghouse and Belvedere Road should be marked out and maintained to make us more visible and clearly open to those who come to our programs. It was suggested the path be a little meandering rather than a straight line, to make it more attractive. Suzy Hallett asked if workdays would be scheduled to help in the yard work and he said yes.

E. **Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness was not here today. Sue Rockwood and Suzy Hallett reported that the sign-up list for providing snacks after morning meeting is working well. Jean Crawford reported that it is helpful if Rachel has a list of people she can call as needed.

3. **Other Business/Special Concerns.**

Carmen Lavertu reported that John Eben Lacey has passed away. He had been here for several years helping when Alice Lacey was in decline. Deborah Haviland distributed bookmarks for the memorial service of Thomas Reardon, a long-time attender here who passed away January 4, 2015. She will help prepare a memorial minute for him for our records.

Willow Rowntree reported on behalf of the Emergency Fund Committee, which also includes Jean Crawford, Carmen Lavertu and George Chappell, that they would like to explore obtaining additional funds for the fund as emergencies come up unexpectedly. This will be discussed at future meetings as our resources are limited and it may also be fruitful to consider how we can help people in need connect with other social services that are available as needed.

Jim Matlack reported on the on-going work on the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, particularly with respect to the challenges facing the native peoples of Maine. FCMPP testified in Augusta recently on five pending bills in the legislature relating to these issues, including fishing rights. Carmen Lavertu reported that the Truth & Reconciliation Report will be released in June after a series of public hearings.

Jim Matlack reminded everyone that after the close of business today, there will be also a brief annual meeting of the Corporation of the Midcoast Friends Meeting.

4. **Closing Worship.** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:55 p.m. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, June 21, 2015. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available on the meetinghouse bulletin board and at <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/newsletter.htm>.

5. At 1 p.m., the **Corporation of the Midcoast Friends Meeting** convened, answered the required questions in the affirmative, approved a Minute reflecting this action as required by law, and closed after a brief meeting for worship. A copy of that Minute will be appended to these Minutes in our records.

Respectfully submitted, *Jim Matlack*, Clerk; *Bruce L. Rockwood*, Recording Clerk

QUERIES

Social Responsibility—Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

Minutes: Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting
Ministry and Counsel
1 May 2015

Janet Hough, clerk

Ann Dodd-Collins, recording clerk

Present: Leslie Umans (Belfast Area), Carmen Lavertu (Midcoast), Diane Dicranian and Ann Dodd-Collins (Winthrop Center), Susan Davies and Holly Weidner (Vassalboro), Janet Hough (Cobscook), Carole Beal and Maretta Taylor (Acadia)

Regrets: Mark Rains

2015-5-1 We reviewed the agenda and began with check ins.

2015-5-2 Acadia, Belfast Area, Cobscook, Midcoast, Vassalboro, and Winthrop Center Monthly Meetings were represented. Our check ins included both the state of our meetings and personal updates. We were saddened to learn of the death of Elaine Crocker, the wife of Vassalboro's Dick Kelly just that morning. And Cobscook lost Walter Plaut at the beginning of December.

We care deeply about our meetings. Some of them are growing, some of them are stagnant. Some of them are meeting the challenges that arise and are moving forward, some are caught in conflict that is not easily resolved. Midcoast offers First Day School once a month and has an active pastoral care committee which has initiated worship at Highland Green in Topsham where several Quakers are living. Midcoast is also planning to celebrate the birthdays of three members turning 93. Acadia is enriched by visitors, some of whom return and become regular attenders. Belfast Area and Winthrop Center are enriched by sharing their space with other faith communities. Winthrop Center continues to hold midweek worship at the synagogue in Augusta. Attendance at our meetings ranges from 2-4 in Cobscook to 12-15 in Belfast. Personal connections are important, essential to making things happen.

Leslie reported that Daryle Carter has two major illnesses, amyloidosis and multiple myeloma. He is in a clinical trial at Tufts as treatment of these two, in combination, is extremely rare and difficult. The Carters are clear about what they need from the meeting which is planning to take worship to them as the treatment continues.

Many of us have responsibilities for elderly and not so elderly family members that can be time consuming and may even take us away from Maine for extended periods. Some of us are feeling that we have taken on too any projects and have little time for the things we love, such as gardening. Leslie reported that a niece on Mt Everest and Janet reported that friends in Katmandu are safe following the earthquake in Nepal.

Janet updated us on the Tribal Reconciliation Commission and the meeting in Bangor on 30 April, the first in a series reporting on the Recommendations of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare TRC.

2015-5-3 We introduced ourselves to each other, giving our names and our meetings.

2015-5-4 Susan and Leslie reported on the program for Fall Gathering, which was approved in February as a kickoff of a possible ongoing program throughout the year. Planning the program began with a need for help with clerking. Conversations with clerks, recording clerks, pastors, and key people in each meeting seems to be leading us into something deeper--building a sense of community and identity in the quarter as a quarter.

The theme for NEYM Sessions is "Living into Covenant Community" and that theme has filtered into conversations about Fall Gathering. We can have people instruct us on clerking and other business practices, but it won't stick if

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we're not in unity and working together. How are we going to knit together what feels like an increasingly fractured quarter? From the knitting together, perhaps the skills building will come.

One approach might be to have a kick off inspirational speaker. How do we feed and nurture that which initially draws people to us? The plenary speaker might be followed with skills building workshops and perhaps small group spiritual formation. Perhaps creating a tool box would come later, not at fall gathering.

The sense of needing training came from the need of business procedures. A clerk can't clerk a meeting alone. The clerk is discerning the sense of the body, listening as an individual to the whole. Corporate discernment can only work well when people trust the discernment of the body. We have a tendency to leave the work to the clerk or to Ministry and Counsel, but we are a spiritual community and it takes all of us being open to a breakthrough of the spirit.

Still alive in the quarter is a need for leadership. We are all equals but we don't all have the same gifts. The absence of people coming forward to leadership positions is a symptom, not the disease. We all need to work together and put the community ahead of the individual. Leadership will come if we are inspired.

Although we remain unsure of the approach to the program at Fall Gathering, possible speakers were named: **Margaret Cooley**, Holly Baldwin, **Jackie Stillwell**, the Grannells, **Eden Grace**, Doug Gwyn (Those in bold were named by more than one person.) We would ask them to speak about building a covenant community, that we have a problem with Quaker practice. Do we just want a kickoff/plenary speaker, or do we want some one to facilitate the entire weekend? First we need to be clear about why are we doing this work of the quarter, then we work on how do we do it.

We are supportive of the expansive way Susan and Leslie have been looking at the program for Fall Gathering while keeping it grounded in the original concept. What does it mean to be a spiritual community and how does that come down to business? How do we build the business meeting that reflects our values? Are others led to join the planning team? Leslie and Susan should draw on other people to help with the planing as needed. " Holly reported on the logistics of Fall Gathering. Friends Camp is going to handle registrations this year. Vassalboro Monthly Meeting will work on the logistics. Their planning group will include others in the quarter to help with specific tasks.

Holly will send an email to the meetings in our quarter asking each meeting to send the name of a contact person to receive Fall Gathering information. This should be someone who is actively interested in Fall Gathering, not necessarily the clerk.

We expect to have some time allotted for a Meeting for Business at Fall Gathering.

2015-5-5 We decided on a tentative schedule for our quarterly meeting in November, hosted by Belfast Area and Orono Friends. There will be a Ministry and Counsel meeting and worship in the morning, then lunch, then the program. If we need to have a Meeting for Business, it will be 15 minutes just before lunch and Janet will agreed to clerk. No business items accepted on the day.

As a point of information, the 1985 Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting lists the following as the responsibilities of a quarterly meeting:

- approve a budget and expenditures
- endorse travel minutes
- approve minutes of concern
- record gifts of ministry
- setting up and laying down monthly meetings and groups of worship
- receive State of Society, statistical, and other reports from MMs

In all but the first item, Ministry and Counsel discerns, then Meeting for Business approves.

2015-5-6 A concern was raised about Orono Monthly Meeting. How do we support a meeting that is struggling with beloved members who are overwhelmed with the care of family members in failing health? As a first step, we will have a card for people to sign at the All Maine Gathering. What is VQM's role in supporting struggling meetings? This is a conversation we need to have.

2014-5-7 We approved endorsing Diane Dicranian's travel minute to travel with a concern for Friends New Underground Railroad. (attached) It will be signed by Janet Hough as clerk of Ministry and Counsel, VQM.

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2014-5-8 We read a Memorial Minute for Avery Harrington. With thanks for the life shared, we approved having it read at Fall Gathering.

2014-5-9 We closed with grateful appreciation for the work that was done this evening.

NEWS ON NEPAL AND ALEX ULIN

We've had an e-mail from Alex's mom, Priscilla Ulin, who says, "Although Alex would prefer to have stayed, she and her friend, Max Silverman, also a Bates student and with whom she is traveling, are redirecting their energies to fund raising for relief work. They recommend that gifts be sent directly to the Women's Foundation. . . Money that WFN receives has no overhead taken from it, so 100% will go directly to their work with earthquake victims. I might add that [Foundation President] Renu Sharma is well known and respected for her many years of work with women and children, not only by Alex and Max but also by a couple here in Damariscotta who, themselves, have worked at the Foundation. My point is that donors can know that anything they send will never be diverted; every cent will buy food, tents, mattresses, medicine, and other necessities for people left homeless by the earthquake."

Here is the information from the Women's Foundation:

What do we need?

Unfortunately we do not have an endless supply of food, shelter and much needed supplies. Amongst the items we desperately need to continue providing relief to our community are: Food, gas, oil for our generator, mattresses and quilts, extra clothes and pharmaceutical products – in particular sanitary items for women, antibiotics, water purification drops and hand sanitiser.

What can you do to help?

We would be grateful for any emergency financial support you can provide us to buy these necessary items. The bank systems are currently down (although we don't expect they will be for very long) so please consider sending funds directly to our bank account or to Western Union. Details are below.

Details on donating:

Western Union: Please send directly to WFN President, Renuka Upreti Sharma

Bank deposit details:

Name of Bank: Nepal Investment Bank Ltd., Putalisadak, Kathmandu, Nepal

Account Name: The Women's Foundation, Kamalpokhari-Kathmandu

Account Type: Current Account-NPR

Account Numbers: 01201020251273

SWIFT CODE: NIBLNPKT



While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.

—St. Francis of Assisi

FROM NEYM PERMANENT BOARD

Here's the latest from Holly Baldwin (former Midcoast member), Clerk of the Permanent Board:

As you may know, Permanent Board carries the work of NEYM between sessions, seasoning some items for wider discernment, and taking action for the Yearly Meeting when necessary. Three items of interest to Friends in New England.

Visioning and strengthening the future of Friends in New England

Two committees (Long Term Financial Planning and Structural Review) are doing work to strengthen and vitalize our Yearly Meeting, including helping us be better able to serve Monthly Meetings, to help you become better spiritual homes for your members, attenders and newcomers. In so doing, we have recognized the need to unite on the vision and priorities for the Yearly Meeting. Friends have looked back at recommendations from 1981 to 2014, and found consistent yearnings for help with spiritual formation, outreach and ...

The Long Term Financial Planning Committee, as it's first step will be seasoning this past discernment, distilling it into priorities for us today, sharing it with Friends throughout New England, and bringing this shared vision to Sessions for consideration in August. Read about it here:

The Structural Review Committee has a few preliminary ideas that they are eager for your input on. They are sharing these with Quarterly Meetings this spring.

Public Statements as a Yearly Meeting

We often hear that Friends long for Quakers to take a bold stand on current issues in our world, on peace and justice related issues. We love our process of seasoning minutes in our local meetings, Quarterly Meetings, and considering them finally in August at Sessions. But sometimes Friends long for a presence that could be shared with the world more frequently than that. We found inspiration in New York Yearly Meeting, which has authorized the Clerk and Secretary to issue statements that are in alignment with previous Yearly Meeting minutes. We have set a group out to work on creating a similar process that would allow NEYM to bring a Quaker voice to speak to the challenges of our world.

Read the NYYM statements: [http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/Minute on interim decision-s.pdf](http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/Minute%20on%20interim%20decision-s.pdf) and [http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/List of interim actions since 2010-2.pdf](http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/List%20of%20interim%20actions%20since%202010-2.pdf).

Sign-on letter on Climate Change

NEYM's Earthcare Ministries Committee shared with us a statement prepared jointly by several Quaker bodies in anticipation of the 2014 UN Climate summit. Earthcare forwarded the statement with the request that we consider signing on behalf of NEYM. We felt great sympathy for the statement, but found it appropriately directed to monthly meetings to consider and sign. You can find the letter [http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/2015 Cover letter to YM permanant board-1.pdf](http://neym.org/sites/default/files/committees/meetings/2015%20Cover%20letter%20to%20YM%20permanant%20board-1.pdf).

The full (draft) minutes of the meeting can be found here, and the advance documents for the February meeting are [here](#). The agenda and advance documents for the May meeting are available <http://neym.org/permanent-board/meetings/5757>.

You will need to create a user login to read these documents-- the process is simple, but if you need any help with that, just ask Sara Hubner, Office Manager (office@neym.org, 508-754-6760). If you have questions or something to say about any of the Permanent Board items, I'm happy to talk to you about them, or refer you to the relevant clerk or point person for a given agenda item. Finally, if you'd like us at Permanent Board to know anything about what's going on at your meeting or in your NEYM committee, I'd love to hear that, too!

ADVICES

Social Responsibility—Friends are called, as followers of Christ, to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us strengthen a sense of kinship with everyone. Let that sense of kinship inspire us in our efforts to build a social order free of violence and oppression, in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty and the lack of health care, education, or freedom. Friends are advised to minister to those in need but also to seek to know the facts and the causes of social and economic ills and to work for the removal of those ills. Let us cherish every human being and encourage efforts to overcome all forms of prejudice.

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P.O. Box 714

Damariscotta, ME 04543