

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

February 21, 2010

The Clerk read a short reading describing Jubilee – an ancient custom describing a new world order in which “everyone has enough, and no one has too much – It is the commonwealth of God”. This was followed by a period of silence and a time for expression of gratitude. There were thirteen members and attenders present.

MINUTES of the January 17, 2010 Monthly Meeting for Business were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE NE Yearly Meeting has sent letters to member Meetings, stating that annual reports of State of the Meeting are not required this year, though Meetings are welcome to send such reports as they feel called to do. A letter of thanks for our well wishes on recovery from hip surgery was received from David Cadbury. He continues to improve his activities.

FEATURED COMMITTEES: In December the meeting agreed to have detailed reports from one or two committees each month at monthly meeting for in-depth discussion. The committee will also present a written report for the meeting’s consideration and this will be used to facilitate a revised version of The Handbook late this year or early next year. The two committees reporting were Hospitality and Library.

Hospitality reported that it no longer takes care of the guest book on the credenza – as Ministry & Counsel has accepted that responsibility. It inventories and purchases supplies for the social hour, kitchen and lavatories. It also facilitates Friendly Eights. Other highlights of the written report commented on the timely removal of trash and recyclables as well as perishable leftovers after potluck lunches, which have amply demonstrated the variety and tastiness our cooks provide. Friends approved the suggestion that the written reports of our featured committees be published in the Newsletter.

Library Committee maintains and oversees the circulation of the Meeting’s collection of books, pamphlets and magazines. It also welcomes suggestions for new materials and evaluates donated books. The committee would like more display space for books and pamphlets and recommended the meeting consider not keeping the piano. There was not agreement about the piano and the meeting suggested an article in the newsletter welcoming people to use the piano. Kate Nordstrom agreed to do this. Friends were reminded that part of the credenza shelving was designed to be placed where the piano now rests, and where reading material and displays might get more attention. The credenza would thus be less imposing on easy circulation of people. It was agreed to consider this proposal again after due consideration of all alternatives. Pat Spock will check with Diane about a list of the book and pamphlet holdings.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ministry & Counsel is continuing to study the Quaker Quest proposal as well as dialogue on the topic of "Inreach".

Meetinghouse & Grounds reported that we now have an annual contract for cleaning and servicing our heating system and that includes a review of the new thermostats and their adjustment to accommodate changing patterns of building use. The committee is also suggesting a new place for the hidden key to make it more accessible and more discreetly hidden than at present.

Finance Committee - Bill Spock reported that we need someone to do a simple audit of the current and immediate past fiscal year, as well as an additional person or two for the committee to periodically confer with Paul and Bill. Linda Cote Small will consider doing this audit. He assured us that we are in comfortable financial circumstances compared with the general economy.

Religious Education asked the Meeting to approve the reading of a very brief story after meeting for worship on the topic of earthcare on the first Sunday of the month before potluck. There was discussion and Meeting approved doing this after meeting for worship is closed and before introductions and announcements.

OLD BUSINESS

Directory: Pat Spock announced that the new directory is nearly ready for the printer.

NEW BUSINESS

The Clerk informed the meeting that Joyce Young had given us some educational materials on fragrance and healthy air quality. Friends agreed that these materials be put on the credenza for circulation so that people can become informed.

It was noted that Kate Nordstrom has offered to provide three or four individual back cushions for use by tender-backed people. They would be kept near the entrance to the Meeting Room on one of the "back benches". Friends quickly approved the suggestion and thanked Kate for her generosity.

After noting that the featured committee for report next month will be Meetinghouse & Grounds, the Business Meeting concluded with a calming silence to meet next after Worship on March 21, 2010.

Deborah Haviland, Clerk
Peter Haviland, Rec'g Clk