

Minutes
Midcoast Monthly Meeting, Damariscotta
First Month 25, 2009

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a reading from John Woolman and moments of silence. There were sixteen Friends present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one change.

Correspondence – A letter from Beacon Hill Friends House invites us to take part in their online Quaker Studies course. The topic for the January 25 – February 21 course is the Book of Mark: “The Time is Fulfilled and the Kingdom of God Has Come Near”, led by Andrew Wright. Thomas Steele-Maley will look into a possible link between our website and Beacon Hill’s.

Ministry & Counsel – Rachel McGinness reminded committees to submit their write-ups for the 2008 State of Society Report.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – Deb relayed the tale of the missing meetinghouse key, gathered input on who has keys, who needs keys, described the location of a key for now and will provide more keys.

Pastoral Care – Friends were pleased to be brought up to date on how Viki and Paul are doing. The Meeting has sent a gift, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, to Viki.

Peace & Social Concerns – Deb explained that Carmen Lavertu can not serve as “clerk by default”. There followed conversation about the possibility of combining the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and the Peace Center Steering Committee. Deb will contact Brewster Grace about this.

Religious Education – The children very much favor sending the money raised at our Christmas Party to Heifer International to sponsor ducks, reported Rachel McGinness. Deb will ask Treasurer Paul to forward the money.

Old Business – Suzy Hallett reported for the *ad hoc* committee on memorial stones that by April they hope to present us with a plan. Deb will be in touch with George Sparks’ family about this.

New Business – The Minute on Peace adopted by New England Yearly Meeting at its 2008 Sessions (see November Newsletter) called upon “all our meetings to consider this minute during the coming year and to identify how to take action on the concerns raised. We also call on New England Friends to gather in a called Meeting for Worship in early 2009 to address the concerns raised in this minute.” The business meeting today chose Sunday, March 1 for consideration of this within the meeting. A period of reflection and response will immediately follow regular meeting for worship which may include queries

on this topic. Carmen Lavertu, who is on the planning committee, will record responses for submission to NEYM.

The schedule for the Book Discussion Group has been changed for a trial period to try to include more people. The group will meet at the rise of meeting for worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

Volunteers to close meeting for worship:

- February – Deb and Pete Haviland
- March – Nancy Booth assisted by Andy Burt
- April _____
- May – Jim Matlack

Deb reminded Friends of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 7.

No further business coming before the meeting it was adjourned following moments of silence planning to meet next on Sunday, February 15 at rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk