

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FIRST MONTH 17, 2010

After a period of silence following a short reading Clerk Deb Haviland opened the meeting with some eighteen Friends present. Several expressions of gratitude were shared. Minutes of the December 20th 2009 Monthly Meeting for Business were approved.

Correspondence Notice was received that Holly Baldwin's transfer has been accepted by Fresh Pond Meeting in Massachusetts.

A thank-you note was received from Jean Harris for the plant that the meeting gave her. FRIENDS ARE REMINDED that Jean Harris should be notified of any event planned at the meeting house so that she can record it on the calendar and the heat can be adjusted in advance.

Paul Diamond gave a mid-year Treasurer's Report which indicated that both expenses and contributions are in good order at this time. Investment values have rebounded and revenue from use of the meeting house has increased.

Ministry and Counsel The committee has been discussing its mission and ways in which to enhance the spiritual health of the meeting. One such endeavor will be the QUAKER QUEST session to be held on Sunday, February 7th after meeting and the pot-luck that day.

After discussion occasioned by the snow storm two Sundays ago a policy was approved to have a front door key available for any who can get to the meeting house but there will NOT be a "telephone tree" to notify Friends whether or not meeting will gather on a stormy Sunday. The key which now is behind the "77 sign" will be moved to better location. The meeting will be notified when this is done.

Meeting House and Grounds Due to inconsistency in heating levels new thermostats for the heating system have been ordered.

Pastoral Care Annie Grace and David Cadbury have both had major operations and are in recovery at home. Viki Diamond will have surgery on Thursday. Cynthia Thomas' husband Charles died and she has a new address. Alice Lacy is in a care facility in Boothbay Harbor. John Lacy has not yet gone to North Carolina.

Religious Education The young people had a discussion of Haiti this morning. They also ask that short folk tales from Earth Care be read aloud during meeting pot-luck meals. It was approved to try this story-sharing at the pot-luck for two months. It will start on February 7th. It was also agreed that children be in the meeting for worship on Sundays for the first fifteen minutes but will not re-enter before the meeting has broken with rare exceptions.

Gifts and Leadings Linda Cote-Small led a discussion based upon a text prepared for meeting members —"DISCERNING JOBS ESSENTIAL TO THE MEETING"—which advances seven points intended to help make the meeting more vital and active. Each point was discussed in turn.

It was agreed to gather twice a year (April and October) to discuss the health of the meeting. Focus was seen as crucial in these sessions and it was suggested that they be devoted to such topics as outreach, service, and education.

Each monthly meeting for business will highlight one meeting committee for in-depth discussion to gain greater understanding of its mission and endeavors. Any committee with a pending decision or information to impart to the meeting will also be put on the agenda each month as will individual concerns.

The meeting Handbook will be revised and re-issued when the study of committees is completed.

Ministry and Counsel will seek to give greater attention and follow-up to newcomers and attenders so as to draw them more fully into the meeting community. This committee also has a continuing concern for vocal and silent ministry among us.

The Peace Center Board is working on possible service projects for the whole meeting.

A list of "Resource People" in the meeting has already been issued.

Under New Business it was agreed that Meeting House and Grounds will look into purchasing a new DVD player for the meeting.

A spontaneous solicitation of funds for relief work in Haiti (including the proceeds of the Christmas Bazaar) was topped up with \$92 from meeting funds for a total contribution to Doctors Without Borders of \$1,000.

At the rise of meeting on Sunday, March 14th Jim Matlack will lead a discussion and priority-sorting session to arrive at a short list of "Legislative Priorities" to be recommended to the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Deborah Haviland, Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk