

**MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS
THIRD MONTH 21st, 2010**

After a period of silence presiding-clerk Karen Cadbury opened the meeting with 20 Friends present. Minutes of the February 21st Meeting for Business were approved.

A report from Ministry and Counsel was given by Suzy Hallett. The committee decided not to go forward with Quaker Quest after the initial presentation to the meeting but instead to rely upon resources and persons within the meeting to enrich the spiritual and community life among us. A new “welcoming pamphlet” directed to attenders is under development.

Brewster Grace reported for the Peace Center Steering Committee. He listed various projects that are under consideration, including further work with Right Relationships, “Fishes and Loaves”—a study program developed by the Maine Council of Churches, presentations on “Alternatives to Violence” and “Restorative Circles” and “Non-Violent Communication,” and a Film Series at the meeting house which may begin with a discussion on Gaza led by Tom Jackson. Norman Olsen, a Friend and former U.S. diplomat with deep experience in Gaza, may also be invited to speak on the current crisis in Gaza.

A Financial Report was given by Treasurer Paul Diamond who indicated that overall balances in meeting accounts were in good shape. A total contribution from meeting members and the meeting in the amount of \$1,000 was sent to aid relief work in Haiti.

A longer report for Meeting House and Grounds was given by George Waldman and Bill Hallett who share leadership on the committee. A shift from three to two sub-committees was proposed, discussed, and approved along with a revised statement of purpose [SEE text appended to the Minutes]. Planting a vegetable garden or fruit trees or berry bushes on the grounds was discussed at length. Concerns were raised over location, water supply, use of pesticides, and sufficient volunteers to tend any plantings. The committee will develop a recommended course of action for future consideration.

Continued placement of the informational meeting notice in Friends Journal was approved. Concern for the financial health of the magazine led to consideration of donations to Friends Journal by individuals and possibly by the meeting. Any decision on the latter was deferred.

The new Meeting Directory was distributed. Deep appreciation was expressed to Pat Spock and others who labored to complete the revised Directory.

Brief reports were given regarding Alice Lacy’s situation. Visits, cards, and phone calls to her were encouraged. Alice Lacy, 145 Emory Lane, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538 (207) 633-1222

A Certificate of Transfer for George and Mallory Waldman has been received from Birmingham Monthly Meeting and was forwarded to the Ministry and Council

Committee. The membership transfer will be brought to Monthly Meeting at the April, 2010 meeting.

The meeting then engaged in the second stage of a sorting process to select Legislative Priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation led by Jim Matlack . A short list that emerged from a session held the previous Sunday was discussed at length in order to narrow down to five issues. In the end the following list will be sent to FCNL:

1. Work against the MILITARISM that dominates national budget and policy decisions in Congress and seek to shift U.S. foreign policy from an emphasis upon the military toward a focus on diplomacy, collaboration, aid, human rights, and mutual respect among nations;
2. Seek to reduce or remove U.S. military forces from AFGHANISTAN while emphasizing self-determination, regional diplomacy, economic development, and human and women's rights;
3. Seek full and effective U.S. engagement with CLIMATE CHANGE issues, policies, and international accords;
4. Support a strong U.S. role in seeking a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis; and,
5. Seek to curb the undue influence of money and corporate power in our political system.

There were brief discussions about having a portable dishwasher in the kitchen area (discussion will continue at the next Monthly Meeting) and also a plaque to honor Charlotte Ritter, the meeting member and donor whose bequest enabled the purchase of the swing set.

The Right Relationships Group will sponsor Betty Zisk for a presentation on April 25th. On April 24th Vassalboro Meeting will host a half-day for prayer and discernment on Peace concerns as encouraged by New England Yearly Meeting.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

Karen Cadbury, Presiding Clerk

Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

REVISED STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

MEETINGHOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This committee has overall responsibility for the Monthly Meeting's building and grounds. The Meeting House and Grounds Committee prepares operating budgets and proposes capital expenditures through the Finance Committee to Monthly Meeting to the Monthly Meeting. The Committee determines the arrangement of meetinghouse furniture and fixtures, monitors purchases and the donations of gifts relating to the building and grounds, oversees the use of storage space (i.e., attic and basement), and schedules workdays. Members are also responsible for purchasing housekeeping supplies and making sure a regular schedule of cleaning the meetinghouse is maintained.

The committee's clerk maintains the calendar of events or assigns the responsibility of maintaining the calendar to a member. The clerk is also assures that maintenance has been accomplished, as needed

In the event of expansion or alterations to the meetinghouse, this committee is the body responsible for the coordination, planning and oversight of such a project.

The Meetinghouse and Grounds Committee has two sub-committees, each of whose duties are outlined below:

The Meetinghouse Subcommittee

This committee schedules and oversees use of the meetinghouse. The committee sets guidelines for use of the building. Additional responsibilities include programming the thermostats weekly, collecting user fees, and overseeing the distribution of keys.

Grounds Subcommittee

This committee is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the meetinghouse grounds. Functions include oversight of mowing and snowplowing as well as routine grounds maintenance and the gradual implementation of a landscape plan.