

Minutes

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business
Damariscotta, Fifth Month 20, 2007

Clerk Peter Haviland opened the session with a reading and moments of silence. Thirteen Friends were present.

Deborah Haviland read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved.

Treasurer Paul Diamond presented the 2007/2008 budget for approval. It includes increases in our contributions to New England Yearly Meeting, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. These groups have not had increases in quite some time. The sub-committee on Worthy Needs has not yet reported its recommendations for charitable donations. Pete will call the convener of that committee. Paul recommended that the budget item for Worthy Needs be held open beyond the close of the fiscal year. Friends approved the budget as recommended. Friends also approved the purchase of up-to-date software for handling our finances.

Linda Cote-Small reported for Ministry & Counsel:

Four people have received information on membership. Linda has learned from Lee Coolidge, who is housebound, that she would welcome a small meeting for worship in her home. Deb Haviland and Carmen Lavertu would like to take part. Deb will coordinate and get the word out.

A concern for the announcements following meeting for worship was raised. There was considerable discussion including the transition out of worship and the length of the announcement period. It was suggested we have an item in the Newsletter encouraging sensitivity to the needs of some Friends to have a gradual transition out of silence. It was suggested that we have an interval for voicing joys and sorrows before announcements.

The meeting's memorial minute for Charlotte Ritter was read at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting. Friends there requested we add specific information about Charlotte's involvement with Native Americans. While we were reluctant to change a minute we had already approved there was a sense that the changes would increase the likelihood that the minute would be entered in the record at yearly meeting. We therefore asked Linda to incorporate the changes as she sees fit.

Carmen Lavertu reported for Peace & Social Concerns. There has been a shift away from stressing a need for organizational leadership of a peace center, per se, in favor of recognizing that we already qualify as a peace center, considering the many peace initiatives we are involved in. Instead of having a separate steering committee the Peace & Social Concerns Committee will oversee these initiatives and others as they emerge. The date of the next Peace & Social Concerns meeting is to be announced.

Sally Tukey reported for Religious Education. We are still experiencing a lack of young people but the special programs that have taken place have met with great success.

We have received a communication from the Natural Resources Council offering us a presentation on the proposed Plum Creek development. Carmen will ask Gretchen Hull to see if CONA would be interested as that could be a more appropriate venue.

Linda Cote-Small reminded the meeting that New England Yearly Committee Day will take place in Damariscotta on Saturday, June 9. It is our responsibility to facilitate the event. Carmen Lavertu volunteered to convene the committee. Deb Haviland volunteered to help with hospitality and refreshments and Pete Haviland volunteered to help with childcare if needed.

Andy Burt announced we are invited to join a new book discussion group being organized by the Universalist Unitarian Church. The first book will be David Korten's new book, "The Great Turning". More information is forthcoming in the Newsletter.

No further business coming before the meeting it was adjourned, planning to meet next on Sunday, June 17, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Haviland, Clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk