

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business Fifth Month 16, 2010

Clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a reading and moments of silence. Sixteen were present. Minutes of the 4/18/10 business meeting were approved with the correction that Karen Cadbury and Brewster Grace are co-clerks of the Peace Center.

The Statistical report for 2009 was handed out. There are 51 individual members. The report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

A TV, DVD player, radio and other items which are no longer needed by the meeting are available to anyone who can use them. They are in the hall.

John Lacy's email address is incorrect in the new directory. His email is: johnplacy@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE- Carmen Lavertu clerk

Carmen Lavertu, clerk, gave the in depth report for the Pastoral Care Committee **The meeting approved the description of the committee.** It was agreed that the new approved committee descriptions will be a part of the revised handbook when it is completed early in 2011. The descriptions can also go on the website at that time. There was discussion about putting the name of a contact person for the committee in the newsletter and on the website. The committee will look into this. It was also suggested that the Emergency Fund, available for individuals in the meeting, be clarified more fully. Carmen asked that Emergency File Forms which have been passed out, be returned to her.

FNANCE COMMITTEE – Bill Spock, clerk; Paul Diamond, Treasurer

Paul read excerpts from a letter from the Four Directions Development Corporation of the Wabanaki people. The loan note from the meeting comes due on 7/14/10. The letter requests that the loan be renewed in the amount of \$10,000. **Meeting approved.** The meeting has received an anonymous gift of \$3,000 which has been put in the reserve fund for the time being. It is not to be used for current operating expenses.

The proposed budget for 2010-11 was discussed. We are about \$500 short on pledges. Paul recommended that final approval of the new budget be sought at the June business meeting. **The meeting approved.**

Bill Spock, Clerk

The finance committee recommends a periodic financial review (not a legal audit). **The meeting approved.** Linda Cote-Small will do this review later in the year.

Bill discussed the long range financial issues before the meeting. Over ten years our income is down 25% and our operating expenses are up 82% - a 6% yearly increase in expenses Therefore we must somehow plan to increase our annual income.

3 possible scenarios:

1) Contributions

We send out 75-80 pledge letters annually, but contributions and membership are declining. Each contributor might consider increasing his/her annual contribution by about 4% annually.

2) Rental income

More rental income will help the bottom line.

3) Establish an endowment fund

If we did this, it would lessen the emphasis on individual contributions. 4-5% of the income generated could be spent annually.

Bill recommends a stronger pledge letter suggesting that each individual contribution be increased by at least 4% annually. Follow-up to the letter is important. **Meeting approved a stronger pledge letter.**

The new description of the treasurer and finance committee for the revised handbook was approved, after changing the word "audit" to "review".

MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS: George Waldman, co-clerk

George Waldman, co-clerk, presented a request from the Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta to rent the all purpose room space in the meetinghouse for a group of 15 children from 7:30 am – 12 noon from September - December 2010. The school is building an addition to its permanent space and needs temporary quarters for that period of time. George suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the next business meeting on June 20th. Insurance issues and a contract are two things that need to be addressed.

A committee consisting of Bill Hallett, George Waldman, Paul Diamond, Viki Diamond, Claire Darrow, Karen Cadbury and Guy Marsden (clerk), was approved. Guy will speak to Karen and Viki; the others have said yes.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL – Suzy Hallett co-clerk:

M&C would like to encourage more interaction among meeting participants. It proposed that everyone remain in the meeting room for 15 minutes longer after the close of meeting to visit with each other before refreshment time begins. This time would be like Afterthoughts and the goal would be to nourish inter-relationships on a different level. **The meeting approved doing this on a trial basis, starting May 23 and continuing until the end of June.**

LIBRARY COMMITTEE Kate Nordstrom, committee member

The committee proposed moving the piano to the hallway to free up space for shelves in the library. The question of whether the meeting wants to keep the piano was discussed. This had been brought up a few months ago and there had been no feedback since. **The meeting approved moving the piano. The meeting also approved asking Gretchen Hull** (who had given the piano to the meeting over ten years ago) **to find a new home for the piano.** The clerk will do this. The meeting now has a subscription to Friends Journal and the committee hopes Friends will take advantage of this.

PEACE CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

The program with Norm Olsen was well attended. This will be noted in the Newsletter.

No further business coming before the meeting it was adjourned following moments of silence, to meet next on Sunday June 20 at the rise of meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Clerk

Anne Spencer, Recording Clerk Pro Tem