

## **Minutes**

Midcoast Monthly Meeting, Damariscotta  
Tenth Month 19, 2008

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a reading from *Advices and Queries* of London Yearly Meeting and moments of silence. There were 17 Friends present.

There followed several expressions of gratitude.

The recording clerk read excerpts from the minutes of the previous meeting pertaining to actions taken. Friends approved the minutes.

**Correspondence** – Deb read a letter of appreciation to the meeting from a brother of George Sparks. Friends appreciated its beauty of expression about George and asked that it be submitted to the Newsletter. Deb read a request for funding from our friend Holly Baldwin in behalf of the Scholarship Fund at Beacon Hill Friends House. The scholarship is to support a visitor for one year at Beacon Hill Friends House. The visitor under consideration is from Gaza. The request was referred to Karen Cadbury, Carmen Lavertu and Linda Cote-Small of the Worthy Needs Committee.

### **Committee Reports**

**Meetinghouse & Grounds** – Paul Diamond outlined preliminary ideas for memorial stone guidelines. The stones would be flat, of modest size, with birth and death dates. They would lie close to the Memorial Circle. Further, three options will be considered: 1) for uniformity, the meeting could buy and hold several stones, 2) we could install a formal, graveled area surrounding the stone circle for placement of memorial stones, or 3) memorial stones would be placed less formally in the grass low enough so as not to interfere with mowing. The above will be published in the Newsletter. Friends are asked to weigh options in preparation for arriving at guidelines at the next month's meeting. Meanwhile, Ministry & Counsel will consider qualifications to be eligible for a memorial stone.

**Ministry & Counsel** – Rachel McGinness reported. The committee's recommendation that Suzy Hallett become a member of the meeting was welcomed with enthusiastic approval and Suzy expressed her gratitude. On behalf of the committee revising NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting) *Faith & Practice*, Ministry & Counsel invites feedback on the draft of Chapter 4. Rachel distributed to committees a sample State of the Committee report.

**Peace Center** – Andy Burt distributed a sample flyer about the solar panel celebration, "Quaker Simplicity and the Environment" on November 9. The flyer details a tour and presentation of the new solar electric system, a simple lunch with local foods and a presentation of John Woolman by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox. A Friend suggested that we stress foods that are certified organic as well as local.

**Treasurer's Report** – Paul Diamond presented a financial report for the period from June 1 to October 15. Snowplowing expense may exceed estimate. There have been some expensive oil burner repairs. Contributions are a little slow coming in.

**Peace & Social Concerns** – Carmen Lavertu distributed new booklets from FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) entitled *Building Structures for Peace*. She also distributed A Minute On Peace from Wellesley (MA) Monthly Meeting adopted by New England Yearly Meeting at Sessions 2008. The meeting decided to co-sponsor the Alternative Gifts Fair in December.

**Religious Education** – Karen Cadbury reported that the existing table has been lowered. The bequest from Charlotte Ritter will go toward youth size chairs and the committee is considering a swing set.

**Old Business** – The memorial service for George Sparks was attended by family and friends from the four corners of the country. Thanks were offered to Nancy Booth, Paul Diamond and Pete Haviland for oversight of the service.

**New Business** – The meeting has received a request from a Friend for financial assistance to participate in a program. It would come from the Conference Fund. A process was approved by the meeting: a co-clerk, the clerk of Peace & Social Concerns and the clerk of Ministry & Counsel will meet with the applicant, having authority to allocate up to the amount in the budget. If the request is more than budgeted a matching fund for private donations will be set up. We will hold a Christmas Fair on December 14 to benefit a worthy cause chosen by the young people of the meeting. We will invite Sylvia Tavares, Jayne Dwyer, other artists and craftspeople to come sell their wares. Friends will bring useful used items to donate for sale. A letter from attender Joyce Young requesting permission to create an organic garden on the property was referred to the Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee for consideration and recommendation at the next meeting for business. Thomas Steele-Maley's offer to sell fresh eggs from his family's chickens on First Days was approved.

No further business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned following moments of silence, planning to meet next on Sunday, November 16 at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk

