

Minutes
Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business
Ninth Month 21, 2008

Co-clerk Deborah Haviland opened the session with a reading and moments of silence. There were 19 Friends present.

The **Minutes** of the previous month were approved.

Correspondence – A letter from Suzy Hallett requesting membership was received and referred to Ministry and Counsel. An invitation from Maine Council of Churches to a celebration of their 70th anniversary on November 7th was received. The meeting will subscribe to the celebration. Deborah Haviland wrote to NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting) and Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting to inform them of our decision not to submit a State of the Meeting Report this year. The meeting received a note from two members of Keene Friends Meeting thanking us for a lovely hour they had spent worshipping on our front porch.

Upcoming Events – The date of the November session of Quakerism 101 is to be announced.

Ministry & Counsel – Willow Rowntree reported. The process of Suzy Hallett's application for membership is well underway. There has been good interest in the upcoming Quakerism 101 series. The committee has been considering the difficulties it had producing a State of the Meeting report for 2007 and ways to improve the situation. It recommended that assessment of the state of the meeting be viewed as an ongoing process, that committees keep this in mind as they go about their work and that, once or twice a year, committees include reflections on the state of their work in written reports to monthly meeting. This was an informal request for a trial period. The meeting agreed with these recommendations. Brewster Grace for the Peace Center Steering Committee and Peter Haviland for Ministry & Counsel will give examples of such reports at the November meeting for business. The committee has also been considering ways to counsel the meeting on vocal ministry. Finding little reference to vocal ministry in the queries of *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting* it is led to create its own queries. To begin with the committee would disseminate copies of "Guidelines for Vocal Ministry" to Friends and then gather feedback on which to base written queries. A member of Ministry & Counsel would read one of these queries during meeting for worship on the first Sunday of the month. (The committee suggests that we also have monthly reading of queries from *Faith & Practice*, perhaps on the third Sunday of the month.) The meeting agreed with these recommendations.

Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee – Paul Diamond reported. We anticipate help with some of the heavier projects from inmates of the county jail. Final work hours of the season are scheduled for October 5 and 26. Since October 5 is also the date of our monthly potluck lunch, the food will be set out following rise of meeting so that those who need to can eat then. Others who choose to work before they eat will do so.

Peace Center Steering Committee – Brewster Grace reported on projects being undertaken in three areas. In the area of Environment, alternative energy and climate change: on November 9th there will be a community presentation of Midcoast Meeting's solar panels and a presentation by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox; in the Winter/Spring there will be a presentation by Andy Burt on Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and a community seminar called "Perspectives on Climate Change". In the area of militarism Carmen Lavertu will present her workshop, "The Election & World Affairs", on September 24, October 8 and October 22. In the area of the "War Is Not The Answer" film series there will be one film per month: "No Man's Land" in December, "Body of War" in January, "Conspiracy" in February, and "Stop Loss" in March.

Peace and Social Concerns – Carmen Lavertu reported. The committee is ordering a pamphlet from FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) entitled "Building Structures for Peace". They are presenting Carmen's "The Election and World Affairs" workshop (see above). They are continuing to organize the book discussion group. Plans are underway for a fundraising event to benefit Haiti. Two projects from New England Yearly Meeting sessions include "Banners Across America" countering torture as a moral issue and peace tax activities. There will be a CHIP (Coastal Housing Improvement Program) fundraiser on September 26. The committee is pleased that members of Lincoln Academy's Civil Rights Team have chosen militarism as their theme for this year. The students intend to attend our "War Is Not the Answer" film series.

Religious Education – Karen Cadbury reported. First Day School will soon be underway. Karen, Rachel McGinness and Sally Tukey will teach the first three Sundays of the month. Willow Rowntree and Deb Haviland have offered to teach on occasional fourth Sundays of the month. It is hoped that other Friends will volunteer to make up a rotation for the fourth Sunday of the month.

Old Business – The charge for the ad hoc committee on funding special causes was reviewed. Carmen Lavertu, Linda Cote-Small and Karen Cadbury comprise the committee.

New Business – The annual meeting of the corporation will be held during the October meeting for business. George Sparks who died September 6 of this year had two requests that his family have told us about. He wanted a traditional Quaker memorial service and he wished a memorial stone placed on the meetinghouse property. This is the first time the meeting has had a request for a memorial stone and we have few guidelines in our records. There was a clear sense of the meeting that we honor George's request for a memorial stone. A Committee of Oversight for the memorial service, to be held October 4 at 2 pm at the meetinghouse, consists of Peter Haviland, Paul Diamond and Nancy Booth. They will meet with the family and tell them that the Meeting will honor George's request for a memorial stone with details to be worked out.

No further business coming before the meeting it adjourned following moments of silence, planning to meet next on October 19, 2008. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Haviland, Co-clerk

Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk