

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
December 13, 2015

MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. The Clerk read Query # 12, "Integrity and Simplicity," Faith and Practice, p.214.

31 Friends were in attendance.

Friends approved the minutes of the October and November Meetings for Worship for Business.

Linda Lotz and Justin Loughry presented the Annual Report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. Committee members are Kathy Fastiggi, Sarah Greenblatt, Linda Lotz, Donna Maccherone and Jack McGlaughlin. Sarah has rotated off. New members are Doug Campbell and Jennifer Gould.

Major activities continue to be the Garden Project and the Friends Transition Support Committee. There are now four co-coordinators: Cindi Kammerer (Newton), Lee Parry (Westfield), Mike Lane (Westfield) and Mary Noland (Haddonfield). The Thanksgiving luncheon was well attended. Dayna Sharp took the lead on creating an AFSC Small Group Ministry. This effort somewhat fizzled because of people's schedules, but these activities may have resulted in the successful recent Quarterly Meeting. Kathy Fastiggi has worked hard on leading the FCNL letter-writing effort. This is an important part of what the Committee is doing. The Committee invited an interesting speaker, an Iraqi who has immigrated to the U.S., on the topic of "Demystifying the Wars in Syria and Iraq." Lots of issues were discussed after the presentation. There was an African American history month program in February. More than 50 people gathered to watch *Dhamma Brothers*, about meditation training for lifers in a Southern penitentiary.

The Committee is planning a movie night to highlight social and economic issues involved in the fashion industry. There is an international focus in this documentary. A second movie night is planned in May.

The Committee is discussing issues of refugee assistance. There will be discussions about the military local recruitment office and recruitment issues in general. Some local environmental issues will also be discussed.

Linda Lotz led a discussion on the Peter Mott house. Many people heard Linda Schockley from the Lawnside Historical Society speak about that house. This meeting has a long connection with the people of Lawnside. The Mott House is doing a small fund-raising effort to build a fence around the property, taking place on Kickstarter. The Peace & Social Concerns recommends that the Meeting send a small contribution to that effort. If Friends are comfortable with that, Judy Owens suggested that contributions be made among those attending this meeting. \$235 was collected today.

Lisa Boyell presented the Treasurer's Quarterly Report, a copy of which is attached hereto. We are not quite half-way through the year. Our tuition program is a big budget item. Lisa has not made any payments to the School for this year. She is waiting for the exact amount due from the School. It is not clear what the latest procedure is for providing tuition assistance. The Clerk will inquire of Pam Perry for that status. Some members remembered that the process requires that the parents apply for this assistance. We have spent 28% of our budgeted operating expenses and have only received 17% of the budgeted income.

Since we do not have a Finance Committee, the Treasurer has not been reporting to a group of individuals who would closely review her reports. Lisa does not make deposits to our account. Lisa pays the bills that come in. She gets approvals for everything she pays from the relevant committee. Mary Anne Gaffney reviews bank statements. But there are small but important functions that are not being carried out. The Clerk will discuss this issue with Nominating Committee. The little contribution box collects a substantial amount of donations.

Ginny Barker raised the issue of how to make up the difference between the budgeted and actual amounts of contributions. Lisa noted that December is usually a month when a significant amount of contributions come in. The Ad Hoc Financial Stewardship Committee is tracking the pace of contributions and comparing it to last year. Bill Patterson started this activity last year. It is important for each member and attender to consider the spiritual connection he or she has to the Meeting.

Friends accepted Lisa's report with thanks.

Dave Austin led a discussion about a school-related issue: should the Meeting support a PTO game of chance? The PTO is trying to bring people together and build a sense of community. Prizes would be donated. Friends were united in their discomfort with games of chance.

Dave commented that there is renewed emphasis at the School on making sure that Friends testimonies are carried out. There are more Quakers on the Board than previously.

On behalf of Care/Worship & Ministry Committee, Drew Biehl presented the recommendation of the Clearness Committee. The Committee had a wonderful discussion with Dick Webster and Deedy Roberts and recommends that Friends approve their marriage on April 9. Friends approved. The Oversight Committee consists of Ruth Podolin, Virginia Ritchie (a member of the Haddonfield Presbyterian Church), Lois Hinski, Fran O'Neil and Trish Prete.

Bob Turrin reported on a possible revised property agreement for rental of space at the School. At the last meeting Property Committee was asked to review the form of agreement and rental schedule. The Committee is comfortable with the existing procedures.

Further from the Property Committee, snow removal costs are at zero. The Committee bought powerful LED bulbs for outdoor lighting. The plastic tubes in the dishwasher

have been replaced. There are seven valves in the basement that are corroded and are in the process of being replaced. The Committee has started to clean out the garage. On Dec. 23 at 7 pm, Bob Turrin and Ginny Barker will be before the Historical Commission at Borough Hall to argue for a permit to put up shutters. All the gutters have been cleaned. We fixed the furnace in the parsonage. There are two zones for heating the Meeting House. One must be repaired to get heat on the far side of the building.

Judy Barnes announced that she will be taking over Deedy Roberts' task of distributing information to Meeting members and attenders via email. The Clerk read the following minute of appreciation to Deedy:

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of Friends would like to minute our appreciation to Deedy Roberts for her years of service and dedication. During the years we did not have a newsletter, Deedy kept communication rolling in the community by forwarding emails to the Meeting list, often at very short notice. Many of us have relied on Deedy's prompt and never-failing work. We are grateful.

Friends approved.

Mary Noland presented hospitality announcements. We will have a picnic at the end of May to recognize our students who are graduating from high school. The list of committees responsible for covered dish each month is now posted in the kitchen.

Trish Prete led a discussion about worship on New Year's Eve. Friends approved formation of an ad hoc committee to organize midnight worship that day.

Maria Shivers is currently covering the Meeting's phone and voicemail messages. She needs someone to take over that responsibility.

The Clerk reported on correspondence and information received in the last month:

- The School's Christmas program will take place on Dec. 15.
- The Clerks' Quarterly Meeting will take place on January 9.
- She thanked the people who have organized our Christmas events. There will be a carol sing on Christmas Eve.
- Bob and Johanna DeRose have communicated with the Meeting and are attending Stony Run Meeting in Baltimore.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business is scheduled for January 10.

Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee Annual Report for July 2014-June 2015

PARTICIPANTS

Through June, 2015: Justin Loughry, (clerk), Kathy Fastiggi, Sarah Greenblatt, Linda Lotz, Donna Maccherone, Jack McGlaughlin,

Sarah rotated off the committee in June; Dayna Sharp was with us for much of this time; Doug Campbell and Jennifer Gould are now meeting with us, and KP Perkins receives emails. We welcome others to join us. .

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Garden Project and the Transition Services Committee Following the transition of leadership, there are now four co-coordinators: Cindi Kammerer (Newton), Lee Parry (Westfield), Mike Lane (Westfield) and Mary Noland (Haddonfield). This summer, sessions were held every Saturday. The rest of the year, sessions are held twice monthly. A lively and colorful brochure (prepared by Sarah) was circulated, describing the activities of this project.

Things are generally going well with the project, although issues arise from time to time with the half-way house. Some new rules for Garrett House residents led to reduced participation in the project. In addition, after walking from Garrett House to Newton Meeting, the women must now individually call Garrett House to confirm they arrived. As of fall, 2015, the average number of Garrett House participants is 8-10. The women from Garrett House and our volunteers are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this project. We understand that women at the state's prison facility at Clinton have heard about the project and have interest in participating when they become eligible for a half-way house placement.

AFSC Small Group Ministry As our AFSC liaison, Dayna Sharp introduced the Small Group Ministry concept -- in which AFSC encouraged meetings to create small groups to focus on one issue. A dozen people completed a survey, indicating they would be interested in participating in a small group focusing on one of several topics recommended by the AFSC: healing justice, immigration, religious hospitality (welcoming Muslims), and Israel/Palestine. A large majority of the people responding wanted to focus on healing justice. Unfortunately, we were never able to get this off the ground, due to difficulties in finding a time when all could participate.

Referendum on Bail Justin provided some background on the New Jersey ballot question which was widely supported by NJ voters. Although the ACLU and other close allies supported this referendum, he and others were deeply concerned about giving up New Jersey's Constitutional right to bail. There are rules in use which allow judges to set extremely high bail if they are concerned about releasing someone dangerous into society. Many defense lawyers have noticed that people detained for lengthy periods - who do not have any hope of getting released on bail - respond in a number of negative ways, such as pleading guilty for crimes they say they did not commit solely to get out of jail. Additionally, some people are beginning to

identify possible problems including a risk assessment process that would result in people being held in jail for 48 hours+ before having a bail hearing. Hiring people to conduct this risk assessment could cost \$25 million per year; this income will come from increased fees for those filing in family court.

NJ Mental Health Bill At the request of this committee, the meeting signed a letter circulated by the Drug Alliance and the Anti-Poverty Network in support of legislation that would require health care, insurance, and other companies to provide coverage for mental health services.

FCNL Letter writing With the support of this committee, Kathy Fastiggi, HMM's liaison to FCNL, has facilitated a renewed letter-writing effort. Each month, she circulates letters from FCNL and makes copies available so people can send letters to their members of Congress. Between 10-22 letters are forwarded each month following Meeting for Worship; additional letters are going to the Capital via electronic mail. We are all encouraged to sign up for FCNL updates on various topics.

Among the topics of letter-writing and discussions were: Fast Track legislation for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Smarter Sentencing bill, and police use of military equipment.

EVENTS

Speaker on Iraq & Syria Raed Jarrar, Policy Impact Coordinator in the AFSC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, in Washington, DC, spoke on "Demystifying the Wars in Syria and Iraq" in November, 2014. Members of our Meeting and from other Meetings in the quarter, and members of the general public, attended the talk as well.

Using his personal story to provide insights into Iraqi culture and history, Raed explored recent issues in that country and the impact of US policies there. He noted the destruction of Iraq's central government arising from the U.S. invasion in 2003 sparked sectarianism as well as the rise of ISIS and Al Qaeda. As posted on the HMM website by Sarah Greenblatt: "The former Iraqi government was a dictatorship, but it was secular," Jarrar said. "It was religion blind. They hated all religions equally and oppressed all equally." While it's illogical to think that additional bombing will stabilize Iraq, U.S. policy remains driven by a commitment to military spending, which Jarrar called "this war hungry machine."

African American history month program In February, Linda Shockley from the Peter Mott House and the Lawnside Historical Society was the guest speaker for Adult First Day program, which was arranged by this committee. She highlighted some key issues in local African American history, as well as connections with the Quaker community.

Movie Night In May, more than 50 people gathered to watch *Dhamma Brothers*, a documentary about providing meditation training for lifers in a Southern penitentiary.

INTERNAL HMM ACTIVITIES

HMM Chronology “A Brief Chronology regarding Quakers and Slavery in Philadelphia and South Jersey and Meeting Relationships with local African-Americans” was revised to include updated language regarding slavery and information about local Friends from the new book on Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh.

Bulletin Board Kathy and Linda periodically update materials on the foyer bulletin board.

2015-6 PROGRAM YEAR UPDATE

Movie Night The Communication, Outreach, and Membership Committee asked P&SC to hold two movie nights during the upcoming year, in January and May, 2016. They will be part of a series of monthly activities designed to build community within the meeting. On Friday, January 15, 2016, P&SC will present a document focusing on the issues of economic and social justice inherent in the fashion industry, entitled “The True Cost.”

Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting On Sunday, October 25, Haddonfield Meeting hosted a hundred people for the Quarter’s fall meeting, focusing on Criminal Justice/Healing Justice. Shan Cretin, General Secretary (Executive Director) for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), will be the keynote speaker. About ten boxes of books were collected for Books through Bars program

Rain Garden Doug is exploring whether the Meeting and School might want to participate in the Sustainable Haddonfield “rain garden” projects - special plantings between sidewalks and the street to retain water and reduce runoff.

Military Recruitment in Haddonfield The committee is discussing whether it might be appropriate to raise questions about the location and expense of the military recruiter’s office in Haddonfield. The office, on Haddon Avenue just off Kings Highway, is only open a few hours each week. Doug has wondered why a high rental fee is paid for this storefront office when there is space available in the Post Office.

Quarter-wide showing of a film on Climate Change – Ruth Darlington of Medford will be bringing together representatives from meetings in the Quarter who will help to plan a quarter-wide showing. We will announce details as they are worked out.

Refugee Assistance – In response to the hundreds of thousands of Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Palestinian, and other refugees seeking refuge in Europe and beyond, there have been some conversations locally and at PYM about ways that Friends might respond. A member of the committee will take part in a PYM conference call in mid-December regarding Meeting activities in support of Syrian refugees and possible collaboration.

Letters to Congress/FCNL – Letters on the Iran Treaty, Climate Change, the “Atrocities” bill, and Syrian refugees were circulated and forwarded to the offices of our NJ Senators and Rep. Norcross.

INVITATION TO HMM

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee invites people to refer information or concerns about specific issues, whether for action alerts, posting materials on the bulletin board, or sponsoring speakers. Please see a member of the committee to share your ideas and information.

Presented, December, 2015