

**HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS**

August 12, 2012

Draft Minutes

Some 34 Friends attended. An attendance sheet is attached.

The meeting opened with a period of worship. The clerk read an excerpt from *Listening Spirituality* by Patricia Loring.

Approval of June and July Minutes was held over until September Meeting for Business.

The Monthly Meeting received a letter from Kira Adams relating many of her experiences during her recent trip to China, a foreign studies program of Dartmouth College. Kira expressed her thanks to the Monthly Meeting for its support of her journey.

The clerk reminded Friends of the upcoming Ned Mears/Jenny Hua Wedding (8/25 at 1pm) which is being held under the joint care and oversight of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting and Dover-Randolph Friends Meeting. Friends were encouraged to attend and worship with Ned and Jenny on the occasion of their wedding.

The Monthly Meeting has been notified by the Dead Playwrights theatre group that they no longer wish to use our Meeting House for their rehearsals and plays.

The Monthly Meeting received a request for financial assistance and/or advice from the Meeting concerning fundraising from Chicago Friends School in Chicago. In light of our own financial challenges and other competing needs, Friends approved the clerk writing a letter expressing our support but stating that we are not in a position to contribute financially at this time. Friends approved a suggestion that the letter contain a suggestion to contact Friends Council on Education.

The Monthly Meeting has received correspondence from Maureen Eyles, Executive Director of the Haddonfield Tricentennial Committee, the group that will be responsible for next year's celebration of the 300th anniversary of the year in which Elizabeth Haddon and her husband built and occupied their house in Haddonfield. The Committee has asked to use the Meeting House for an organizing meeting on 9/10, and would like to include as many members of the Monthly Meeting community as possible. They would also like to make a Meeting for Worship in the manner of Friends as part of the activities on January 27, 2013 at 2 PM, followed by a reception. Friends approved hosting the September 10 meeting. This will be considered a Monthly Meeting event and insurance requirements for outside groups will be waived.

As to the proposal for a Meeting for Worship in January, several Friends expressed concern about a possible lack of integrity and spirituality in a Meeting for Worship that was staged in this manner. Friends approved an *ad hoc* committee consisting of Pam

Perry, Bob Brookes, Judy Owens and Deedy Roberts to attend the September 10 meeting, learn more about the group's plans, express the meeting's concerns and explore alternatives, such as an education session or inviting them to our regular Meeting for Worship.

The clerk read a letter from Karen Nulton containing a request that Monthly Meeting volunteers supply meals to be served at the Garden Project for one month. Priscilla Adams would coordinate delivery. Friends approved and the following volunteers will participate: Judy Owens, Sarah Greenblatt, Connie Brookes, Mary Noland, Maria Shivers, Lois Hinski, Karen Dillon. Judy will set up a meeting to organize the effort.

The clerk read a request from PYM's Committee revising *Faith and Practice* which needs help with a survey. Bob and Connie Brookes, Melanie Monk, David Austin, Judy Owens and Inspira Williams volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to review and respond. It will not come back to the Meeting unless the Committee feels it is necessary to do so.

For Religious Education Committee, David Austin expressed a concern about childcare arrangements for members of the Religious Education Committee. The committee meets once a month from September through June and the meetings are held on the first First Day of the month from 8:45 till 10:00. Three members of the committee have children and require childcare during the meeting time. The committee requested that some of the money budgeted for childcare be made available to cover the necessary coverage during our meeting times. If the money cannot come from this fund, the committee would have to take money from its operating budget, which may impact on our programming. Connie Brookes for Finance Committee pointed out that this is already planned for in the child care expense budget. Friends approved paying for childcare during the meeting time from the Monthly Meeting childcare budget and not the Religious Education Committee's budget. If other committees have child care needs they might consider coordinating their meeting times with that of Religious Education. This may be discussed at the next Clerks' Gathering.

For Nominating Committee, Connie Brookes presented the following proposals regarding committee service for Monthly Meeting approval:

- Worship & Ministry - Melanie Monk
- Religious Education – Christian White
- Property - Pam Anderson
- Assistant Librarian - Jackie Stevens

Friends approved.

For Finance Committee, Connie Brookes announced that Susan Borkowski is the Assistant treasurer and her duties will include being the primary recipient of donations to the Meeting. Susan prefers that checks be sent to her at her home directly rather than to the Meeting House. She will, however, still be checking the treasurer's Mail Box.

Connie also requested that the Monthly Meeting approve the following minute of appreciation for John Donch, who is concluding his service as Monthly Meeting treasurer:

It is with great thanks that today we recognize John Donch for his service as Treasurer of the Meeting for the past six years.

John began as treasurer when his predecessor relocated for work, so John never was able to have the orderly transfer of records that one might expect. However, he quickly went to work to gain a firm understanding of the demands and day-to-day responsibilities of the job. In addition, John took over the position of Treasurer when we were still in the midst of a troubling period in our relationship with Haddonfield Friends School. But he affirmatively worked to build a better working relationship with HFS throughout his tenure, including many positive contributions to the separate incorporation process.

Throughout his service as Treasurer, John has diligently made deposits and paid bills. He has been consistently timely in making regular reports to business meeting and in providing information to the Finance Committee for each of its meetings. We would be remiss, however, if we did not also acknowledge John's enthusiastic efforts to remind us of our financial obligations as members. Every year his reminders have encouraged extra contributions at fiscal year-end, during periods when we ran low on operating funds and, of course, for the purchase of our new boiler.

For all this and more, we wish to express our sincere appreciation.

Friends approved.

John Donch presented the attached treasurer's report.

Continuing with Finance Committee matters, Connie presented the following recommendation. At June Meeting for Business, Monthly Meeting asked the finance committee to consider the best use of additional, unbudgeted income from memorial gifts, interment fees and our share of the ticket sales for the Dead Playwrights Events at Haddonfield Meeting. The committee carefully considered the meeting's options and we were keenly aware of members concerns in two particular areas, scholarship funds and building up our property reserve. There were no strong reasons to recommend one need over another and many to recommend building up both funds. Consequently, the finance committee recommends to Meeting for Business that contributions received from these sources be split equally between the Education Endowment and the Property Reserve Fund and sent to Friends Fiduciary for deposit.

After discussion, including recognition that there will no longer be funds coming from the Dead Playwrights, Friends approved.

On behalf of the Committee for the Care of Members and Attenders, Diane Snyder reported that a letter has been received from Jay Beirne requesting membership in Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends. The Monthly Meeting referred the request to Care Committee to begin the clearness process.

For Property Committee, Bob Turrin reported that the Committee would like to make necessary repairs to the graveyard wall that runs parallel to Haddon Avenue. The paint on the metal cap is very badly deteriorated and the stucco is in need of repair in several spots. Since this work is associated graveyard maintenance, we would like permission from the Meeting to:

- 1) Find a contractor to do the work at a reasonable price;
- 2) pay for the work from Fiduciary funds dedicated to graveyard maintenance.
- 3) The selected bid will be presented to the Treasurer for approval in advance of any commitment to perform work.

The Committee proposed that the repairs would be paid from Fiduciary funds dedicated to graveyard maintenance and that any proposals would be presented to the Treasurer for approval in advance of any commitment to do the work. Friends approved.

Linda Lotz gave the Monthly Meeting an update on the previously approved Minute regarding PYM's Financial Crisis. A letter including the minute was sent to PYM by the clerk. Thomas Swain acknowledged receipt and designated it a supportive minute. It also went to the clerk of PYM's long range planning committee. Linda asked that the original *ad hoc* group get together to discuss possible follow-up action and make a recommendation to the Monthly Meeting.

For Structures Committee, Karen Dillon reported that the work of the committee is drawing to a close and it should be laid down in the near future after the community has had an opportunity to study its reports and recommendations. The committee has drafted a final report citing many accomplishments that grew directly out of or were inspired by the Meeting's participation in the Deepening and Strengthening program. These include reorganization of committees to meet the current and future needs of the community, cross-committee efforts, working groups under the care of committees, religious education programs and many others. Recommendations for the future will be discussed in the coming months.

Deedy Roberts reported as the Meeting's representative to Interim Meeting. She has received a set of Sabbath Year Queries for the Meeting's consideration. This was referred to the Worship and Ministry Committee.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Submitted by Bob Brookes
August 17, 2012

