

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
5/5/13

MAY MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. The Clerk read Query # 5, "Education, p. 208, Faith and Practice.

25 Friends were in attendance.

Friends reviewed the agenda and approved the minutes of the April Meeting for Worship for Business.

Connie Brookes presented the draft Committee List for Nominating Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. Changes from last month included the correction that Deedy Roberts is a member of the PYM and Haddonfield Meeting Nominating Committee. Virginia Barker is on the 2016 panel for Finance Committee. There are two new committees, Meeting and Community and Communication & Outreach. Scott Buchheit wants to step down from the responsibility of maintaining the Meeting calendar. The same person who handles property rental would be a logical person to take over that position. Suggestions are sought. Diane Snyder and Bob Brookes are rotating off Nominating Committee. The Clerk expressed gratitude for the work of Nominating Committee. The final list will be presented in June.

Connie Brookes discussed the preliminary Monthly Meeting Budget for 2014 proposed by Finance Committee, as well as the Treasurer's report as of March 21, 2013. The preliminary Budget does not look much different from the budget for the current year. Copies are attached hereto. Contributions may be increased to \$88,000. Last month contributions were slightly ahead of budget. This month they are 2% less than budget, so there is emphasis on increasing contributions. Patterns of giving have changed. Historically contributions came in primarily in the month of December. Now more Friends contribute monthly and/or when federal tax refunds are received. Friends Fiduciary comes in twice a year, so this year we have received one-half of the expected income. Child care for next year has been increased by approximately \$1,000. Lisa Boyell mentioned that the amount we owe Haddonfield Friends School for cleaning and snow removal is less than expected.

Connie also mentioned that the Drapung Monastery Monks are available to visit again in June 25 – 30, 2013, after local schools are closed. The monks came in November 2012. They had a short opening ceremony and then built a sand mandala, which is incredibly beautiful. There were two evening programs, which included chanting and Tibetan music. On the last day, the mandala was disassembled, and bags of sand were given to the audience. The time would be tight to notify members, attenders and the community, but it is doable. Summer camps could be notified, and the Meeting website would include a notice. Friends approved hosting the event again in June. The Clerk emphasized how moving and spiritual these events were.

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Justin Loughry reminded Friends of Suraya Sadeed's May 14 presentation on Help the Afghan Children. Funds raised for this program go directly to its mission. Suraya Sadeed is a charismatic speaker. Justin also summarized Gordon MacInnes' April 30 presentation "Skyrocketing Corporate Subsidies and High Unemployment." David Austin has asked the Committee to consider purchasing a projector with surplus funds in its budget. It is always difficult for the Committee to find an appropriate medium for public presentations. Connie Brookes mentioned that other committees have a need for a projector.

The Clerk thanks the Committee, especially for the value of the April 30 presentation.

Bob Brookes presented a request to have a memorial service under the care of the Meeting for Robert Twitchell, a longtime Haddonfield resident although he is not a Friend. One of his last requests was to have a Quaker memorial service. The family would like this to occur on Friday May 17 at 11 am. The calendar is clear for that day, although Bob has not checked with the School about regular activities in the Meeting House. If there is a conflict, the School will adjust its schedule. Friends approved. Friends are requested to attend. The Memorial & Graveyard Committee will have a special meeting to organize the details. Bob mentioned that hosting the memorial service is a ministry that the Meeting should provide without concern for mercantile issues.

Bob Turrin presented the Property Committee's Annual Report. He began with a request that Friends walk the property and appreciate the hard work that the Gardening Committee has put into it. The year began with a focus on the front of the Meeting House. The rain pipe has now been buried and waters the pachysandra. The driveway was repaved twice, and the second job was better than the first. All the bricks have been repointed. The roof damage from Hurricane Sandy has been repaired. The roof was installed in the '70s and is still in excellent shape. The Meeting House carpets were repaired and cleaned, using a low moisture process to protect the floors. DelVal Carpet Cleaning is the company that did the work. The Borough conducted a fire inspection and is requiring that sprinklers be installed in the basement. Water pressure tests were completed. The project is ongoing. The long missing storm window at the front of the Meeting House has been replaced. The front porch roof is made of stainless steel, and three panels started to slide down. This exposed the roof to water. That has been fixed for \$500. Right before Christmas the sewer line caved in. This was repaired just in time for Christmas Eve meeting for worship. Pam Anderson set up a maintenance calendar. Repetitive tasks, such as recharging the fire extinguishers, are being posted. The track lighting in the library has been repaired, for the first time in 15 years. The kitchen range has been repaired; the pilot lights used to go out. The Elizabeth Haddon chairs are now on display. Two chairs are being recaned. The garage was cleaned out for the first time in 25 years. Compost bins were installed back by the garage to create leaf mulch. New chairs should be delivered next week. The stucco and masonry wall, including the cap, on Haddon Avenue has been repaired. Bob has treated the entire wall to eliminate the carpenter bees; several more treatments will be required.

Someone hit one of the columns that hold up the porch. This was repaired, but a similar accident has occurred this week. Bollards could be installed to protect the columns, although that would be unsightly. Property Committee will discuss this risk and decide

what recommendations, if any, should be made. The Meeting requests that Property Committee bring such a recommendation to Meeting for Worship for Business in June.

The Meeting House is missing the second floor shutters that were an original architectural feature of the building. This is a purely aesthetic change. Bob suggests that we obtain a price to replace the shutters. The original shutters are in the basement, but they have been cut in half for easier disposal. They can be used by a custom shutter manufacturer to rebuild. There will always be repairs to be made in a building this old, and there is a risk that there will be another severe hurricane. However, at this time the Property Committee is not aware of any major repair items that are necessary.

The Meeting thanked Bob for his good report and the Property Committee for its hard work.

Bob Brookes reported for the *ad hoc* Child Life Committee. The Structures Committee had recommended that the Children's Inclusion Committee be laid down. In 2012, there was an unexpected increase in the number of children involved in Haddonfield Meeting. It became important to determine the right relationship of the Meeting to its children. The *ad hoc* Child Life Committee was established for this purpose. A document has been drafted to be placed on the website. It is quite comprehensive and entitled "Children in Haddonfield Monthly Meeting." It is a set of FAQs about services available to children and Meeting expectations regarding children's behavior and activities. An informational brochure has been developed about Children and the Meeting. Copies will be available next month.

The Committee presented a set of tentative recommendations, which are supposed to be finalized by June. They are:

- That a new standing committee be established, called the Ministry of Child Life Committee.
- Reinstitution of the practice of a friendly presence in the library for older children during meeting for worship. The message we want to send to young parents is that it is okay to leave meeting for worship to take out a child who is restless or to check on a child in care. It is okay to arrive late because of the needs of a child.
- Child Safety Policies & Procedures must be published somehow. The new standing committee should take responsibility for maintaining and updating the policies and procedures.
- Parents should be brought into this activity.
- This committee should supervise and support the caregivers and recruit First Day School teachers. It should also oversee the relationship with Haddonfield Friends School concerning the use of property.
- Community building, intergenerational activities and setting the policies concerning the relationship of children to the Meeting should be the responsibility of this committee.

Final proposals will be presented to the Meeting in June.

The Clerk reminded Friends that it is time to register for PYM Annual Sessions and Friends General Conference Gathering. Financial aid is available from PYM and FGC respectively.

The next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business is scheduled for June 9, 2013. The annual report for Religious Education, final Committee List and Budget and the ad hoc Child Life Committee report will be due.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.