

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Eleventh Month 11, 2012**

Clerk: Kitti Reynolds

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Cameron Allen, Edwin Brown, Bobby Carter, David Clements, Tom Edelston, Barbara Esther, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Rylin Hansen, Gail Hipkins, Jim Hipkins, Leslee Johnson, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Edie Patrick, Alan Robinson, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Reading

Today, more than ever, we are challenged to expand our understanding of the interconnection of all living things and the delicate balance required to sustain the community of life. Human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon earth's ecological integrity. When Friends are patterns and examples of sustainability we promote these aspirations. We thus support those engaged in transforming our treatment of the earth. All generations deserve to experience a sense of wonder, an intimate connection with the grand diversity of life and an appreciation of their interrelationship with all life processes.

-SAYMA Guide to Faith and Practice

Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

10th Month Minutes

The 10th Month Minutes were approved as posted.

***Finance Committee: Pat Johnson**

The Board of Directors (Pat Johnson, Kitti Reynolds, Adrienne Weir, David Clements, Bob Smith) met this morning. The role of this group is to handle financial and property matters. See their report below.

To date, we have \$11,132 in contributions and \$4,603 in rental income. We are in a better position than normal for this time of year, but please consider making contributions before end of this year, as our income is still \$995 below projected.

Pat said that \$200 had been transferred from our general fund to the scholarship fund. Note that this did not happen last year, although it is supposed to happen annually. Most of these monies are spent to send AFM attenders to SAYMA Meetings (paying registration fees), and some has been spent to send people to workshops at Pendle Hill. The scholarship fund is low right now due to a number of approved scholarship requests.

Meeting approved the transfer of an additional \$200 from the General Fund to this fund.

House and Grounds remains under their budget for the year. Insurance for the Board of Directors has been paid, even though this is not yet reflected in the budget. Utilities are a bit above expected expenditures. SAYF is under budget, but an upcoming retreat will increase this. Peace and Earth still have \$120 to distribute for General Outreach and \$7 for Special Projects. All of their Quaker Outreach funds have been spent.

Religious Education Committee: Joy Gossett

Adding windows to the Meetinghouse's upstairs doors would increase safety for both children and adults involved in R.E. A Friend asked if adding peepholes would be sufficient. Another Friend added that this has been an R.E. concern for years, and that adding a window would create a message of transparency and public work for all involved. She noted that R.E. had encountered no problems to date, and that they were eager to maintain this record. A Friend asked if there were any laws regarding this. Adrienne responded that the windows would have to be made of safety glass, and that House & Grounds committee would check state regulations about this matter. They are checking for used doors that might meet criteria, as well as looking into modifications for the existing doors.

House and Grounds Committee: Adrienne Weir

Adrienne noted that Cameron had been working on the committee and had already done tasks including trimming shrubbery. She also noted that we have replaced our heating contractor, and that some of the issues with the old furnace had been resolved by removing an Easter egg from the intake area. Adrienne asked for ideas for keeping the oak leaves around the base of the large tree in the front yard.

A Friend asked about how to work the thermostat. Adrienne noted that they are pre-set, and that the heat should turn on several hours before Meeting for Worship starts.

***Nominating Committee: Katherine Kowal**

The Meeting approved the nomination of Cameron Allen for the House & Grounds Committee for a two year term.

The Meeting approved the nomination of Leslee Johnson for the Spiritual Enrichment Committee for a two year term.

Nominating Committee noted that over half of our committees currently had no clerks. We are proposing that the most senior member of any clerk-less committee would be charged with welcoming and orienting new committee members.

The Meeting approved that the most senior member of any clerk-less committee would be charged with welcoming and orienting new committee members.

Report on Inquiry Concerning the Meeting Telephone: Steve Livingston

Steve reviewed the in-person and email conversations about the Meeting Telephone (see report at end of Minutes), which costs us about \$850 per year. A Friend added that the telephone jack in the Meetinghouse could always be used to dial 911, even if we had no telephone service; another

Friend did not agree with this assessment. Steve said he would check about this. Another Friend added that they found our Meeting through the *Friends Journal*; Steve noted that the Meeting did not intend to discontinue our *Friends Journal* advertisement. Another Friend asked if you could place a Yellow Pages advertisement even if you had no telephone service; Steve said he would check on this. Another Friend asked if we had considered Skype telephones, which might be easier to use than Google Voice. Steve said that he would bring this matter to the email discussion. A Friend noted that the message must leave the Meeting service time in the voicemail greeting, no matter what. A Friend noted that she had used Google Voice, and although the service was not free, it was less expensive than other options. A Friend asked if Cingular Wireless had free incoming calls, and Steve agreed that we should discuss this via email.

Other

Rylin said that she had a compact portable stereo that plays CDs (3 at a time) that she would like to donate to the Meeting. Steve agreed to maintain that stereo. Friends agreed that they would like to have this donated to us, and they thanked Rylin.

Steve noted that rental income is 131% above projected income. He commended those who kept the Meeting available for renters, especially the House and Grounds Committee and Meetinghouse Coordinator (Adrienne).

Steve asked that the Meeting receive reports about the recipients of our General Outreach funds.

Closing Worship

Report on Inquiry Concerning Meetinghouse Telephone

At last Business Meeting, in our review of our Meeting's budget, a question was raised about the cost of our Meeting's telephone service. A Friend suggested we consider whether other, less costly, options besides a landline telephone would serve the Meeting's needs. Our current cost is about \$850 annually, but could be reduced to about \$700 without sacrificing any of the features we currently have.

Subsequent to the business meeting, George Gjelfriend initiated an email discussion among AFM's regular attenders. Some Friends expressed hope that the money we spend on telephone service could be diverted to more worthy purposes. One Friend expressed discomfort with giving up the old-fashioned telephone instrument with answering machine.

Friends acknowledged that if we relinquished our landline phone, we would no longer have an ad in the Yellow Pages, but it was not clear that the YP ad was of any value to us. Ministry and Counsel Committee was asked to poll visitors as to how they heard about Meeting when they are greeted at rise of Meeting. Last week, George did this by means of an announcement, asking for show of hands. 6 people indicated they had found us through our website. Zero people found us through the Yellow Pages.

Friends discussed various replacement options. For one, the Meeting could get its own cell

phone. Pay-as-you-go plans are available through service providers such as U.S. Cellular on a maintenance plus per-minute basis, e.g. \$50 activation plus \$10 per month plus 0.10 per minute for U.S. Cellular. There are also pre-pay plans designed for minimal users, such as the Jitterbug service and Senior Value Plan. Jitterbug has a \$35 activation fee plus \$15 per month for 50 minutes of air time, plus \$50-\$150 for the phone itself. Limitations include voicemail greeting only 30 seconds long, can only check voicemail from the jitterbug phone, and low customer satisfaction due to billing issues. Advantages include live operators and emergency calling.

The Senior Value phone service has no activation fee and offers a lower cost phone - \$20 - but is otherwise very similar to the Jitterbug, except customer satisfaction is higher.

Based on the premise that cellphones are so ubiquitous that there is at least one available in any group of people using the Meetinghouse, Friends considered another option, Google Voice, with no phone, and no cost. Google Voice works through Gmail providing the Meeting with a local phone number that we can program to connect to any one or several other telephones, or none at all. When a caller dials, the call is forwarded to whatever other phones are connected to the service. All of them ring. If no one answers, the caller gets our voice mail. Recorded greeting can be up to 60 seconds long. Caller can leave a message up to 3 minutes long. Calls are retrieved by dialing the Meeting number from any phone and entering a code, just like with an answering machine. The service also sends an email message to the Gmail account with call history and can be programmed to provide a text translation of all messages. Google voice also allows for free calling through the Gmail account as well as unlimited texting, and a widget can be added to our Meeting web page that dials the Meeting phone through an inquirer's computer.

Limitations include no emergency calling and no operator assistance.

This information is offered for reference, as discussion continues via email and eventually in Communications Committee meeting.

Report of Asheville Friends Meeting Board of Directors, 11/11/2012

The Board of Directors requests that the minutes of its 2012 annual meeting be incorporated into the minutes of Asheville Friends Meeting.

The annual Meeting of the AFM Board of Directors took place at the Meeting House on 11/11/2012 at 9:00 am. Present were Board members Kitti Reynolds (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Clerk of Meeting), Pat Johnson (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Treasurer of Meeting), David Clements (member of the Board *ex officio* as Assistant Treasurer of Meeting), Bob Smith, and Adrienne Weir. The meeting had been postponed from the prescribed time, the second First Day in October at 9 am.

David Clements continues as Secretary. We did not appoint a Chairperson. All current members of the Board of Directors are willing to continue. All Board Members are signatories for the Wells Fargo Account.

We will ask to have the minutes of this meeting recorded in the Minutes of Business Meeting.

There being no new business, the Annual Meeting concluded at 9:05 am. The next scheduled Meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 13, 2013 at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted, David Clements, Secretary of the Board of Directors.