

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting**

Eighth Month 14, 2016

Present: Nick Mimkin; Kitti Reynolds; Jim Barham; Bob Lackey; Bobby Carter; Jim Hipkins; Katherine Kowal; Paul Hibschan; Kristi Gjelfriend; George Gjelfriend; Laura Wall; Jim Cavener; Beth Eddy; Mike Eddy; Kelsey (visitor); Allen Guokas; Wanda Guokas; Michael Garofano; Pat Johnson; Adrienne Weir; Sarah Jayne Thomas; Steve Livingston; Rylin Hansen; Margaret Normile; Rusty Maynard; Robin Wells; presiding Co-Clerk, Gail Hipkins; Co-Clerk, Alan Robinson; Recording Clerk, Barbara Esther.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which co-clerk, Gail Hipkins, read the following:

“Every meeting should hold a business session at least once a month. This should be preceded by a time of worship in order that the spirit of worship may pervade the transaction of business. In both the meeting for worship and the meeting for business, guidance is sought from the Spirit of Truth and Life by whose operation the group is brought into love and unity.

“It might appear at first sight that the principles of Quakerism are inconsistent with any form of church government. This would be true if each individual is expected to follow his own insight regardless of the insight of others. Such individualism could readily result in religious anarchism . . . Quakerism is not anarchistic. The principle of corporate guidance, according to which the Spirit can inspire the group as a whole, is central. Since there is but one Truth, its Spirit, if followed will produce unity. To achieve this unity is always possible and the Society of Friends has practiced the method of achieving it with considerable success for three centuries.”

Guide to Quaker Practice, pp 30-31
Howard H. Brinton

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Minute 1: Friends approved the Seventh Month Minutes. One Friend asked for clarification as to why monies were used from different funds from those approved for renovations.

Correspondence

Paula Villatoro-Weir sent a very lovely note of thanks for scholarship help the meeting has provided and for the care she and her family have received, as well.

Autumn Woodward-Autumn has applied for the position of Administrative Assistant to SAYF for which she needed a letter of meeting approval. The clerks prepared a letter of recommendation as follows.

Mr. Jonah McDonald, Administrative Assistant

August 14, 2016

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF)
155 Murray Hill Ave., NE Atlanta, GA 30317

Dear Mr. McDonald:

This is a letter of recommendation for Autumn Woodward as Administrative Assistant for Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF). We have carefully reviewed the SAYF job description, and, in our eyes, she is an ideal candidate.

Autumn has been running her own business for a few years. She is organized and efficient. She obviously handles her patients well, and her computer with expertise. The nature of her work requires good record-keeping and attention to details, ability to keep an accurate schedule, and appropriate money-management skills. Her correspondence with us reveals an ability to communicate well

More important than these skills are her sterling character, her loving personality, and her willingness to be helpful. For several years, while a mental health worker, Autumn was a regular attender of Asheville Friends Meeting. After she opened her own practice, she was not able to attend quite as regularly; but we could always count on her to carry out her commitments and to stay true to her Quaker values. At AFM, she has worked as a volunteer for young Friends and organized events for environmental issues. Her relationships with others have always been positive and helpful. She is well-grounded in Quaker values, testimonies, and practices.

Autumn's commitment to young people has been evident throughout her adult years. Even while attending a Quaker college, she served youth as an event organizer for their Peace and Conflict Committee. She has also served youth through her pediatric practice and community workshops. She is young enough to have energy and interest, and mature enough to have wise judgment.

Autumn's enthusiasm for serving this new role with SAYFers is obvious. She would bring unusual gifts to the position: from her training in international peace and policy development, to her energy and good humor in working with youth, to her loving and peaceful demeanor, quiet confidence, and peacefulness.

In short, we highly recommend Autumn for this position. She will serve you and the SAYFers well.

In love and Light,

Alan Robinson and Gail Hipkins, (Co-Clerks of AFM)

Approved by Asheville Friends Meeting 8/14/16

Minute 2: Friends heartily approved the letter of recommendation for Autumn Woodward.

Treasurer's Report-Alan Robinson

We have not brought in as much income as we have budgeted expenses for the year to date. Friends are reminded that the statement of \$400.00 per week recited each week as necessary to meet the budget is not accurate. The treasurer recommends that the guide to the person who facilitates the close of meeting be corrected. There was some discussion about how to pay expenses through various funds and bank holdings. In our records, we need to be clear about how our money is held in the bank and how we record expenses. As a new version of Quickbooks is installed the treasurer will take care with the recording of such expenditures.

Committee Reports:

Care and Nurture-Margaret Normile

Margaret outlined the two Death and Dying presentations to be provided in the fall Spiritual Enrichment series. Friends are urged to attend both sessions while experts will be on hand to assist us. They will take place on the 18th of September and the 16th of October 2016.

House and Grounds Committee-Jim Barham and Michael Garofano

1. How we are organized and work.
 1. Who focuses what?
 2. Meet first Sunday after rise of meeting.
 3. Our role is the care of the property and grounds.
 4. Priorities: safety, values, resources (people/\$\$).
2. Action items:
 1. Large Oak tree removal: Jim
 2. Energy Audit action update: Michael
3. Phase 2 goals:
 1. Develop plans to handle routine maintenance.
 2. Engage in some strategic planning to meet evolving needs of the meeting house and grounds.
 3. Establishing priorities and researching related costs.

Some discussion took place of how to take care of useful firewood and possibly boards sawed from the oak tree.

Details will continue to be discussed in committee for the greening of the meetinghouse.

Minute 3: Friends approved the removal of the large oak tree in the front yard by the Smart Feller Tree Works LLC. (see attachment)

Naming Committee-Steve Livingston

The ad hoc Naming Committee recommends that Friends approve Bobby Carter to serve on the meeting's Nominating Committee.

Upon approval of Bobby to serve on Nominating Committee, the ad hoc Naming Committee feels that it has fulfilled its charge, having brought forward to the meeting two Friends to serve on Nominating Committee, and asks that meeting approve laying down the ad hoc Naming Committee.

Minute 4: Friends approved that Bobby Carter serve on the Nominating Committee.

Minute 5: Friends approved the laying down of the ad hoc Naming Committee.

Racial Justice Committee-Steve Livingston from Sharon Smith's Support Committee

Dear Friends,

The RJC is mindful of the fact that our clerk, Sharon Smith, will lose her current housing arrangement in September. That raises the very real possibility that she may be forced to leave Asheville, and that we will lose her ministry to us, to SAYMA and to the Asheville community of color, at a critical time for all concerned. Therefore, we ask AFM to offer her space in the Meeting House as her residence.

We feel this request is appropriate. Sharon's ministry is vital to this meeting, vital to SAYMA and to the Asheville community of color. Our recent approval of three minutes regarding racial justice: Affirming our commitment to make AFM a safe and welcoming space for people of color, proposing the formation of a SAYMA Racial Justice Committee, and Asheville Friends' Statement on Police Violence, would not have happened without Sharon's leadership. There would be no Asheville Friends' Racial Justice Committee without Sharon's leadership. In addition, Sharon is a Friend of color, carrying a ministry of racial justice, and her faithfulness to that ministry places her safety at risk. Therefore we, her Friends, must help her, if her ministry here is to continue.

Another thing to consider is that with Sharon living in the building, the Meeting House is certain to become a center of activism for Asheville people of color. Our hope is that this will lead to more people of color seeing us as a safe and welcoming community.

We ask that two upstairs rooms and the adjacent kitchen, be converted into living and office space for her, on a temporary basis. A few modifications need to be

made for this to happen. The space we are asking for, has been used as living space in the past, so only minor changes are needed.

There should be a door Sharon can lock, because safety is indeed an issue. There is already a door frame separating that end of the hall from the other upstairs rooms. All we need do, is put the door back up and furnish it with a lock and 2 keys. All windows and screens should be checked to be sure they function properly. Check for cracked plaster and peeling paint. A fresh coat of paint. Take up the carpet in the Front Room (the Art Room) and refinish the wood floor, if needed.

The upstairs Kitchen needs a more energy efficient cook-top and range hood. Swap out the dorm fridge for a full size refrigerator—a second hand, reconditioned one will do. Get light fixtures that work better with energy saving bulbs, perhaps?

We ask Friends to consider Sharon's safety over our convenience. There will still be plenty of room for First Day School activities. Several Friends on the Religious Education Committee, including the clerk, are supportive of the RJC's recommendations. The upstairs space can be re-organized for more efficient use. Maybe shift the Art Room to the front room at the top of the stairs. It would make a great Art Room; there's already a mural in it. The rental coordinator has said no changes need to be made to space rental agreements. House and Grounds is also in agreement.

If we cannot unite around this, we will lose a resource we are not using to its full capacity and potential. Can we act according to what we say we believe in, to offer a safe and welcoming space for a Friend of color in ministry? Clearing out unused materials, rearranging or swapping out current furniture, making a few repairs or replacements would cost the meeting relatively little money and not much effort. We have the space and the money. Do we have the will?

In that light, we ask for the Meeting's approval of this request, with the understanding that House and Grounds and Religious Education can make the place ready for September.

In Friendship,

A Friend spoke in opposition to the proposal because of a variety of behaviors that Sharon has displayed on many occasions. This Friend said that he *intends to stand* in the way of approval. Kitti Reynolds took the clerk's place so that our presiding clerk could participate in the discussion. Another Friend said that in addition to certain behaviors we have observed, we do not have insurance to cover a resident for more than two weeks. We were reminded that many people have been challenged by trauma in their lives. We have not really understood the path to healing when we are not victims of trauma. Whether or not we provide housing, we can provide a "home" for Sharon. The character of a person and provision of housing aside, one Friend felt uneasy having a resident in the house, in general. The use of the house as a residence would change our ability to serve the children and

youth of the meeting, as well as the use of our meetinghouse by SAYF for retreats. Several other Friends were opposed to having Sharon reside in the meetinghouse for even a temporary stay. One Friend shared his intention to transfer to another meeting because he cannot take the stress of feeling attacked in the face of repeated shouting and unpleasantness on her part. He also stated that Sharon is not a Quaker. Another Friend related his feeling that a person of color, especially a woman and a Quaker, has necessarily been the recipient of hateful behavior. He asks that we acknowledge that this is the work we have to do; to see that we are called to love one another, even the wayward child. Another Friend said it seems that we are really looking at three things: whether or not we want to have a resident, whether or not we want to have an office on the premises for Racial Justice, and whether or not we want to support such an office under Sharon's care. Another Friend shared that the negativity and confrontation has worn her down, despite having been an activist over many years; it has affected all of us for over a year. There are other Friends who have experienced trauma, but because they are not people of color, their struggles are not known. Anger and frustration are driving our decisions and the life of the meeting. What the present situation brings out in each of us does not result in a healthy meeting. Honesty and pain have come forward through the discussion today, but we will need to address the divisions in the meeting community. What remains to be answered is where Sharon will go when Gita returns. Some members of her support committee are working with Sharon to find a place. Other Friends said that we have a set of values as Quakers that we hope to demonstrate with our behavior, regardless of our skin color and that "whiteness" should not be the basis for our decision-making. Neither should we see every part of our decision to be based on an either/or decision, as opposed to struggling with issues. A Friend said that if we're going to do racial justice work, we will have to get out of our comfort zones. We may not have found the best person or way to change, but perhaps we can seek out other people to guide us through our work in dealing with racial justice.

Minute 6: We are not in unity with the proposal to offer an apartment to anyone at this time.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Ninth Month 11, 2016.

Attachment 1

A confirmation to this email indicates agreement by and between Asheville Arborists Inc. and the authorizing party (customer and/or customer's agent) that the following provisions are made as part of this contract:

Insurance by Contractor: Asheville Arborists Inc. warrants that it is insured for liability resulting from injury to person(s) or property and that all employees are covered by Workers' Compensation as required by law. Certificates of coverage are available upon request.

Scope of work and change orders: This estimate is valid for the known conditions present at the date of the issued estimate. For your protection; if conditions or the scope of the job change; or if issues that could not have been known arise, we will stop work until we get a signed approval for the

change in scope and any price change (if necessary.) This quote is good for 45 days. After that, the price may change.

Cancellation Fee: Asheville Arborists Inc. kindly requests that the authorizing party provide at least 24 hours advance notice of any full or partial work cancellation for jobs that have been scheduled in advance. If a crew has been dispatched to the job site, the customer will be assessed a mobilization fee of \$100 for incurred expenses.

Tree Ownership: The authorizing party warrants that all trees listed are located on the customer's property, and, if not, that the authorizing party has received full permission from the owner to allow Asheville Arborists Inc. to perform the specified work. Should any tree be mistakenly identified as to ownership, the customer agrees to indemnify Asheville Arborists Inc. for any damages or costs incurred from the result thereof.

Safety: Asheville Arborists Inc. warrants that all arboricultural operations will follow the latest version of the ANSI Z133.1 industry safety standards. The authorizing party agrees to not enter the work area during arboricultural operations unless authorized by the crew leader on-site.

Stump Removal: Unless specified in the proposal, stump removal is **not** included in the price quoted. When included, standard grinding depth is 4-6 inches below ground level. Grindings and shavings from stump removal will not be hauled away unless specified in this proposal. Surface and subsurface roots beyond the stump will not be removed unless specified in this proposal.

Concealed Contingencies: Any additional work or equipment required to complete the work, caused by the authorizing party's failure to make known or caused by previously unknown foreign material in the trunk, the branches, underground, or any other condition not apparent in estimating the work specified, shall be paid for by the customer on a time and material basis. Asheville Arborists Inc. is not responsible for damages to underground sprinklers, drain lines, invisible fences or underground cables unless the system(s) are adequately and accurately mapped by the authorizing party and a copy is presented before or at the time the work is performed.

Driveways/Sidewalks: Asheville Arborists Inc. will attempt to minimize any damage to driveways and sidewalks. In the event that our equipment causes settling, cracking, or other damage to driveways and/or sidewalks, repairs are **not** included in the contract price.

Clean-up: Clean-up shall include removing wood, brush, and clippings, and raking of the entire area affected by the specified work, unless noted otherwise on this proposal.

Lawn Repair: Asheville Arborists Inc. will attempt to minimize all disturbances to the customer's lawn. Lawn repairs are not included in the contract price, unless noted otherwise on this proposal.

Terms of Payment: Unless otherwise noted in this proposal, the customer agrees to pay the account in full upon job completion. Failure to remit full payment within the payment term will result in a finance charge of 5.00% per month. We accept cash, check, and debit or credit cards with exception of American Express (with a 3% processing fee for use of debit or credit cards.)

Returned Check Fee: There will be a \$25.00 fee charged for all checks returned to our office for non-sufficient funds.

ANSI A300 Tree Care Standard Definitions: The following definitions apply to specifications detailed in this proposal.

Clean: Selective pruning to remove one or more of the following parts: dead, diseased, and/or broken branches. Unless noted otherwise on this proposal, all cleaning will be of branches 3 inches diameter or greater throughout the entire crown. **Crown:** The leaves and branches of a tree measured from the lowest branch on the trunk to the top of the tree.

Leader: A dominant or co-dominant, upright stem. **Raise:** Selective pruning to provide vertical clearance. **Reduce:** Selective pruning to decrease height and/or spread by removing specified branches. **Restore:** Selective pruning to improve the structure, form, and appearance of trees that have been severely headed, vandalized, or damaged. **Thin:** Selective pruning to reduce density of live branches, usually by removing entire branches. **Vista pruning:** Selective pruning to allow a specific view, usually by creating view "windows" through the tree's crown.

Tree Removal Classes

Removals can take place in a variety of ways with varying amounts of damage to the surrounding landscape. **Class 1:** Fell from the ground, no climbing. Minimum rigging from the ground to set pull lines required to safely fell tree.

Class 2: Tree will be climbed and removed in sections with debris falling to the ground. **Class 3:** Tree will be climbed and removed in a controlled state utilizing rigging techniques to minimize impact to the surrounding area.

Attachment 2

Smart Feller Tree Works LLC

P.O. Box 8811 Asheville, NC 28814 www.smartfeller-treeworks.com

ESTIMATE

ADDRESS

Asheville Friends Meeting 227 Edgewood Rd. Contact- Jim Barham 423 327 0256

Asheville, NC 28804

Set up and Clean up

This covers: - Transportation to and from the job from our shop in West Asheville. - Setting up our equipment, traffic cones, and signage to establish a visible, easily navigated, OSHA-complaint work zone. - Set up and take down of climbing systems and other equipment necessary to complete the work. - Clean up includes removal of all wood, blowing wood chips off pathways and hard surfaces, and leaving the work site better than we found it.

* This is a one-time cost unless the client chooses to complete this work in separate phases.

Take-Down

Red Oak - 30"dbh - This declining tree is located in the front yard, with ~50% of the canopy dead and the rest to follow soon after. Brush will be chipped. The millable logs will be moved left in the yard for future milling.

Firewood Cutting

Limb wood will be cut to 18" lengths and left on site near the parking lot.

Fence Set Up

We can set up a fence around the tree to help protect against children and adults walking under the dead limb hazards. fence materials - 75 labor - 125

TOTAL

ESTIMATE # 1296 DATE 08/06/2016

ACTIVITY

QTY

AMOUNT

1 250.00

7.50 1,500.00

1 100.00 1

\$1,850.00

All work is completed in compliance with current industry and safety standards: ANSI Z-133.1, ISA Code of Ethics, and TCIA Code of Ethics. Credit cards accepted, with a 3% sales tax added. Thank you!

Accepted By Accepted Date

All work is completed in compliance with current industry and safety standards: ANSI Z-133.1, ISA Code of Ethics, and TCIA Code of Ethics. Credit cards accepted, with a 3% sales tax added. Thank you!

Attachment 3

Mountain Arborists

PO Box 633 Naples, NC 28760 828-243-9559

Estimate

Name/Address

Asheville Friends Meeting 227 Edgewood Ave

Date

08/09/16

Description

Cost

Remove oak tree in front of house w/crane

2,500.00

Total \$2,500.00

Signatures