

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting

11th Month 10, 2019

(DRAFT)

Present: Robin Wells, Clerk; Pat Campbell, Recording Clerk, NancyLynn Sharpless, Margaret Normile, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy, Barbara Esther, Bobby Carter, Raelin Hansen, Satchel Loftis, Bob Smith, Rusty Maynard

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship out of which the clerk read the following queries:

Are we taking time to consider our responsibility to the future generations of Asheville Friends? Are we thinking of our financial resources sustainably so we can be sure that our Meeting is here in 10, 20, or 50 years?

The agenda was reviewed, and Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 10th month minutes.

Announcements

The second of the three Long-Range Planning and Visioning worship sharings took place on the first weekend of 11th month. The focus for this worship sharing was how to nurture our own meeting community and be welcoming to newcomers. Attendance was good. Our last worship sharing in this series will be on the 5th day of the first month in 2020. It will focus on how we want to be present in the wider community (e.g., service, activism, being visible to seekers, etc).

Our Simple Christmas gathering will be held on the 24th of this month. This multigenerational activity has become a favorite for many. Plan to join us for a relaxing hour of food, fun, and creativity.

The Meeting's holiday meal will be shared on the 15th day of 12th month. We will sing carols, watch a production put on by the children in Meeting, and share a potluck meal.

Beth Eddy and Pat Campbell are organizing a new season of Friendly Eights groups. These groups are a fun way to get to know Friends outside of Meeting. Be sure to sign up with Beth and Pat if you would like to participate in one of these groups. They will begin in the new year.

Committee proposals for the 2020 Operating Budget are due to Satchel Loftis by the end of this month. The Finance Committee will be presenting a proposed 2020 budget at the 12th month Business Meeting. Committees need to submit all receipts for expenses in 2019 by the end of 12th month.

FCNL will be streaming some of its annual meeting sessions and talks; Friends can listen on their computers/tablets.

Budget Discussion: Robin Wells

“Last month, we learned about our Meeting’s reserve funds and how they are funded. This month we will continue our discussion about how we will responsibly prepare for the needs of our aging meetinghouse so that we provide for the generations that follow us.

I am going to propose that we rebuild our Meetinghouse Improvement Fund by establishing a line item in the 2020 Operating Budget under “Transfers to Other Funds.” It would be referred to as the “Meetinghouse Improvement Fund Transfer.” If we agree with this, then how much do we want to include in this line item? █

Rather than emptying the H & G Emergency Fund for a planned furnace purchase, should we use the Building Fund? Emergency Funds are meant for unplanned emergency purchases.”

After this introduction, Satchel Loftus reviewed the 2019 Operating Activity sheet that Pat Johnson passed around to the attenders, and again discussed the differences between the designated and undesignated funds. He explained the use of budgetary terms as applied to us: Operating (\$19,000), Construction (\$30,000), House and Grounds Reserves (\$0), Other (\$4,500) and Emergency Fund (\$6,000). He said that the Construction Fund was originally created for significant physical addition expenditures to the Meeting House; this became the Building Fund. The House and Ground reserves were for maintenance and other property expenditure such as the proposed new windows, other anticipated upcoming needs. The yearly H&G

budgeted fund was for smaller but needed items such as cleaning materials and for routine maintenance (not for capital items).

He went on to say that we need to start regularly adding savings to the House and Ground Reserves, picking an amount we can support being added to the H&G Reserves. We may then need to consider fund raising to meet our needs. He also said we need to set targeted fund amounts to know when the funds are filled.

Satchel then focused more specifically on our budget, a copy of which is attached to the October Meeting for Business Minutes.

One of the immediate issues was whether the Emergency Fund should be used for other non-emergency purposes, and how this fund is accessed. Satchel explained that in an emergency, the fund is accessed by the appropriate Committee talking with Satchel. He also recommended that the Emergency Funds and monies for planned or needed improvements be kept separate. Also, we need to discuss how to build up the Fund for improving the Building and Grounds since expensive projects are coming up.

One Friend said that we need to defer to the House and Grounds Committee for what it will cost to make the improvements; he cannot give a figure since he disagrees with the H&G Committee figures. Another Friend suggested that we put 10% of the operating budget into the reserve fund Meetinghouse Improvement Fund, but wonders how this will work since our budget keeps being adjusted downwards to reflect the previous year's income.

Satchel indicated he anticipates further discussion of the actual amount to be put aside yearly, but we need to start putting the money aside. The Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee may need to be involved to set a goal for this fund. He went on to say that the Building Fund was set aside with money transferred into it for a while. This fund was not restricted initially but the Meeting decided to restrict it. One year, \$8,000 was used to help build a needed well in Africa since we were not using the Fund at the time. Satchel believes the Emergency Funds should be spent on true emergencies.

There was some discussion of what to name the fund we would use for the needed improvements and more than minor maintenance. It was decided to use "Meetinghouse Improvement Fund" for now, but a better name may be

determined in the future. Satchel reiterated that whether we started with 10% of the budget or \$2,000, we needed to set a goal for the funds and adjust the amount transferred as necessary. One Friend feels that the word “construction” reflects vision and change, a hope for the future, that we spent a lot that could have been spent on new property and thinks we should proceed in faith. Another Friend thought that the words “plant reserves” and “construction” could be in one line item – the door for long range planning should not be shut.

Satchel went on to say that the needs of the Meeting House will not change. (e.g., windows, new furnace, future new roof and the like). Of our funds, \$40,000 is in designated Funds and \$20,000 is in undesignated funds. If we look at a bucket as the receptacle for the money needed for the Meeting House projects, to get what we need may take bequests (the Meeting could decide all unrestricted bequests go into the bucket), budget surpluses (the Meeting can decide if they should be used in this way), operation fund yearly set asides as determined by the Meeting, capital fund raising or designated contributions.

In answer to questions, Satchel indicated that the operational budget for House and Grounds is for day to day maintenance and repair, as stated earlier. Capital projects should be separate from the Operational Budget. The Clerk turned us to discuss the Meeting House Improvement Transfer line of the budget. It was decided that \$2,600 will be included in the budget, which is roughly 10% of our total budget.

Minute #2 – The Meeting approved the amount of \$2,600 to be transferred annually into the Meeting House Improvement/Projects Fund.

Committee Reports_

Library Committee- Pat Campbell

1. The Library Committee will be starting a non-circulating reference section; books labeled “Ref.” We have Pendle Hill Pamphlets indices and updated funeral information for this section (the badly out of date pamphlets were discarded).

2. We would like to be able to get rid of the speakers and screens that are stored in various places in the library and apparently not owned or used by us. If they belong to people that rent, does the rental policy allow for storage here? We would use that top space to put the notebooks of paper records up there and out of the lower shelves to use for library needs (and get the books that need to be catalogued, etc., out of the area for the circulation collection). The speakers are also too close to the ceilings, which will be upsetting to the Fire Marshall. Pat Johnson and Patti Hughes will look into this. The library can move its stores from the closet where rental things are placed in order to make a little more room.

House & Grounds Committee— NancyLynn Sharpless

The H & G Committee is grateful for the work completed on the fall work day inside and out. The jobs not completed during the workday will be offered for individuals to do on their own time. Several have been done already. Check out the 1st floor nursery area. See NancyLynn Sharpless if you'd like a job to do. She has index cards with one job per card for volunteers.

NancyLynn also suggested that the brush pile could be moved some 1st day with Meeting attenders each bringing an armful of the bush pile down to the wall from where the city will pick it up. When asked, she explained that the person who cleans our meetinghouse receives \$15 an hour, which is more than the city pays. She also reminded us that the heat registers need to remain uncovered and the women's bathroom door left open. House & Grounds will have a sign made telling people not to cover the heat register in the library.

We closed with a period of silent worship, to meet again as way opens in 12th month, 2019.