

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
11th Month 8, 2020

Present: Bob Lackey, Clerk: Beth Eddy, Recording Clerk

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Sarah Thomas, Patti Hughes, Pat Campbell, Margaret Farmer, Steve Livingston, James Barham, Sachel Loftis, Susan Oehler, Kitti Reynolds, Rylin Hansen, Robin Wells, Barbara Esther, Jim Cavener.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The clerk shared a reading out of the silence. The reading is from Quaker Faith and Practice 5th ed of the yearly meeting of Brition.

In silence which is active, the Inner Light begins to glow - a tiny spark. For the flame to be kindled and to grow, subtle argument and the clamour of our emotions must be stilled. It is by an attention full of love that we enable the Inner Light to blaze and illuminate our dwelling and to make of our whole being a source from which this Light may shine out.

Words must be purified in a redemptive silence if they are to bear the message of peace. The right to speak is a call to the duty of listening. Speech has no meaning unless there are attentive minds and silent hearts. Silence is the welcoming acceptance of the other. The word born of silence must be received in silence.

Pierre Lacout, 1969

Minute #1: Friends Approved the 10th month business meeting minutes with the following corrections:

In attendance Patty Burgess was spelled with an i rather than a y .
In Minute #3 I think it should be when rather than where and just below minute #3 RJC talks about the Amicus Brief should not be capitalized.

Announcements:

Simple Christmas Zoom meeting (12/6) - Robin Wells

Join us for a multigenerational Simple Christmas gathering on Zoom at the rise of meeting on December 6th. It should begin around 11:30 am. You can participate in the crafts along with our families, or just join in the conversation. Email Robin Wells at robin.wells.777@gmail.com to receive a craft packet from the organizers. You will need to provide your own scissors.

Carol Lamb Memorial – Steve Livingston

Dear SAYMA friends,

I regret to tell you that our dear longtime SAYMA Friend Carol Lamm passed away last Tuesday, after a short bout with an aggressive cancer. She was in hospice care with family gathered, and not in pain. Carol was a SAYMA stalwart, holding virtually every position of responsibility we have. She not only performed her tasks with faithful precision, but she gave tremendous support to others in doing their own SAYMA work. More than once she asked me just the right question, even before I asked for help in discernment. She was instrumental in founding the co-op cooking unit at Yearly Meeting. Many of us treasure that long kitchen association. In her last role as SAYMA Treasurer, she exhibited grace under pressure, and devoted almost every morning of her life to the task. We will miss her greatly. We send our loving support to Tim and the family.

Friends who wish to honor Carol may send a donation to MACED, now renamed Mountain Association, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, AFSC, or Berea Friends Meeting. A memorial service will be held in the Spring.

Bob McGahey

Presiding clerk

An AFM friend shared that Carol did not stop working for SAYMA and worked constantly up to the end . All are impressed by her dedication and love to SAYMA.

Book Group – Bob Lackey for Gita Larson

“My Grandmother’s Hands” by Resmaa Menakem. The assignment for next Tuesday, November 10, is to read Chapters 2 & 3 and do exercises. Gita said that the sharing last week during the first session was “amazing and deep.”

7:00-8:30 pm November 10, 17, 24.

If the group is interested, we may extend the times.

Questions:

Contact Gita Larson, 803-361-2767 or gitalarson@aol.com

If you are attending for the first time, contact Morgan Murray for the Zoom link:

morgan_wynne@yahoo.com

828-278-9243

Update on Adrienne Weir and Paola Villatoro-Weir – Patti Hughes

COVID 19 has come to us in our Asheville Friends Meeting family. Adrienne and her daughter Paola, on an extended visit from her home in Boston tested positive for COVID 19 over a week ago now. A group of folks in the meeting have stepped up to support them with food and other necessities. They are doing well and have appreciated the care and concern. Paola has recovered, but Adrienne still lacks energy. It is best to text rather than phone since Adrienne is still recovering. Please hold them all in the Light

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Satchel Lotfis

The year to date finance report (1/1/20 to 10/31/20) can be found in **Attachment #1**

Our income of \$18,000 represents 68% of budget and our expenditures of \$20,000 give us a shortfall of \$2,000 as budgeted. Satchel informed us based on past data, we are tracking similar to last year and a catch up could be achieved this year. All outreach checks have been covered, the RJC expense for a workshop was paid with the workshop to be scheduled via zoom in the future. As to make adjustments to our budget going forward, we need to be cautious on our expenses. A friend suggested that we wait until we know what we have before we spend. We may need to determine what can be eliminated or what can be delayed to a later date for expenditures (looking at short term and long term needs of work to be done). Sachel pointed out that we have given much this year to help others and waiting for the December meeting will give us a better view of money available to spend.

Minute #2: Friends asked Peace and Earth with the RJC to discern and prioritize needs; Finance will provide guidance on monies available at the December business meeting.

Peace and Earth – Reported that 94lbs of food were collected for MANNA Foodbank and delivered by Bobby Carter.

Ministry and Counsel – Patti Hughes

Asheville Friends Meeting is so fortunate to have wonderful people who work for us keeping our house clean and in order, our yard mowed and cleared of debris and our kids cared for as needed. We want to keep them paid even though they may not be working their full time until COVID allows us to resume normalcy. We request approval today for their full pay for November.

Minute #3: Meeting approved for full pay to our paid workers for November.

Approval for Membership-Robin Wells

We are excited to report that Patty, Tim, Hannah, and Benjamin Burgess have requested to have their membership transferred to Asheville Friends Meeting. Ministry and Counsel has reviewed this request and recommends that we accept and approve this transfer. It should be noted that this transfer was reviewed without a release from Pine Hill Meeting, which has cut ties with the Religious Society of Friends. We are basing our acceptance on the letter submitted by the Burgess Family.

We would love to become members of Asheville Friends meeting. This faith community is a spiritual home where we feel loved, supported and challenged to live better lives every day.

Patty Burgess was born to Quaker parents who lived a life of service and love. She became a member of Goldsboro Friends Meeting at a young age. Tim Burgess became a member of Goldsboro Friends where they were married in 1985. Five and a half years later, Hannah Burgess was born and became an associate member at Goldsboro Friends. They moved to Quaker Lake where Tim became caretaker and Benjamin Burgess was born. They all became members of Centre Friends Meeting where they attended until the family moved. They transferred their membership to Mount Airy Friends and then to Pine Hill Friends.

When the family moved to Asheville, we fell in love with the people and community at Asheville Friends. Ben and Tabitha began their journey as husband and wife through the guidance and support of the Meeting. Tim, Hannah, and I consider it a blessing to be part of such an amazing group of people who inspire us every week. Ben is hoping to be able to attend more as work allows. We would like to become members of the Meeting where we would like to continue to grow in love and to be of service to others.

In love and Light!
Timothy Burgess
Patricia Burgess
Hannah Burgess

Benjamin Burgess

Minute #4: AFM feels honored to approve the transfer of Timothy Burgess, Patricia Burgess, Hannah Burgess and Benjamin Burgess. The Burgess family has spiritually and actively been involved in our meeting. They are a wonderful addition to our worship community. We wholeheartedly welcome them.

Communications – Mike Eddy

Attachment #2

Mike reviewed the costs of permanent internet service and our current process; We use an individual's phone as a 'hot spot' and to date, this usage has not added additional cost to the individual. He recommended that we rotate using individuals phone 'hot spots' to spread usage across members and not incur any expense. Once we see a need for permanent WiFi, we at that time will look into spending money.

A friend raised the issue of costs for our ZOOM meetings, and if there is any money in M&C and Communications to be used to cover costs. Morgan, told us that he was covering the cost of Zoom and considers it a contribution. Satchel told us that individuals should submit a reimbursement form and note that it is a contribution. This process ensures correct accounting of all expenses and contributions.

We discussed it and agreed to continue with Zoom and a Hotspot for our worship and meeting.

Spiritual Enrichment – Barbara Esther

Barbara reported that a few committees have gotten back (RE, P&E, RJC) but there are still have openings in November for activities. She asked all to send her all suggested activities. Another friend asked about additional book discussions. All book ideas are to be communicated to the committee closest to the book's topic to organize a discussion meeting.

House and Grounds – Jim Barham

Jim told us that they originally had 4 bids for painting the meeting house, but 2 have backed out. Of the two remaining bids, Keith Bullitt (a black man) of DBA Neat Painting gave us the lowest bid. Jim had used him to paint his own house last year and was very impressed and satisfied. The bid includes clean up both before and after work is completed. Scrapping, power wash and painting is included along with clean up. His original bid was \$3,700, but there may be some changes as based on a walk around there is need for both additional and removal of work included in original bid. They are planning on starting work later this month. We will prepay for part of work to begin with the remainder of expense after completion.

SAYMA Update – Morgan Murray

Registration is open for Representative Meeting 145b to be held Saturday, November 14. Entry into the ZOOM space and visitation begins at 8:30 a.m., with worship beginning at 9:00 a.m. please see **Attachment #3** for details and a web link for registration.

Morgan reported that for the last SAYMA rep meeting in September 26th, there was NO agenda given out before the meeting. They had a lot of discussion about the URJ funding, and their funding was NOT approved. It was felt that the individual monthly meetings focus on their own Racial Justice Committees. Morgan had concerns about nominations being presented without any supporting documentation. His concerns were not supported at the meeting. A friend recommended that a formal process be created that a nominated name include some background information as to why this person should be considered. A list of the nominees can be found at:

https://www.sayma.org/RM145/nominating_rev_145.pdf

M&C recommended that they prepare a minute that all SAYMA nominations include the candidates qualification as well as the name for future SAYMA candidates. M&C's minute will be discussed at the 12th month business meeting so it can be sent to SAYMA for their 3/2021 meeting.

Morgan reported about a misunderstanding of a letter and discussion about the need for an apology. Morgan was impressed by the graciousness of the clarification of the letter and the handling of the situation by the individual involved. After much discussion and the need to forgive each other and work together, the message given during our worship meeting was restated: 'love thy crooked neighbor by thy crooked self' (from a poem by W. H. Auden). We agreed to nominate Margaret Farmer to the Ministry and nurture committee of SAYMA.

Minute #5: AFM fully supports Margaret Farmer as our representative on SAYMA M&N. Margaret Farmer has the gift to work well with many individuals and to arbitrate differences in a gentle, Quarkerly and a peaceful manner.

Morgan also expressed concern about the SAYMA finance committee. They currently do not have an experienced committee member having just lost their past finance members. He asked us to hold the current committee person in the light as he grows into the position and responsibility.

AFM appreciates the work that Morgan is giving to the SAYMA organization.

The meeting closed with silent worship until way opens for our next business meeting in the 12th month.

Attachment #1:

Finance Committee

Attachment #2:

WiFi

Attachment #3

Registration is open for Representative Meeting 145b to be held Saturday, November 14.

Please follow the link below or visit the SAYMA website at sayma.org to register, and view the agenda and associated reports. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR MEETINGS AND COMMUNITIES.

Registration is required, and the link will be open until 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, November 13. PLEASE REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to facilitate planning for the Zoom event.

Note that Worship Sharing is planned in addition to opening and closing worship, so please indicate on the registration form if you wish to participate in a worship sharing group.

REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/cbkhMacV6LNekgto9>

More information will be provided with the ZOOM invitation which will be sent as a separate email.

If you have any questions or problems registering, please contact me as soon as possible.

Peace, Susan

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Susan Phelan SAYMA Administrative Assistant
1702 Pratt Avenue NE Huntsville, AL 35801 (865) 272-9621
SAYMAoffice@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

We will be having Worship Sharing during Rep Meeting Sat 14 Nov. We are looking for Worship Sharing Facilitator Volunteers.

Volunteers should provide their full name, home monthly meeting, contact info and Worship Sharing experience to: Laura Seeger: terranaut13@gmail.com

Please respond no later than 12 noon on Sunday 8 Nov.

Questions: email or call Laura at 423.400.4091

Yours in the Light, Laura

Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity (PRELIMINARY) through October 31

	2020 Actual (Preliminary)	2020 Budget	Actual / Budget
Operating Activity			
Income			
Unrestricted Contribution Income	17,646.80	25,250.00	70%
Rental Income	673.00	1,500.00	
Total Interest Income	27.48	310.00	
Total Income before Transfers	18,347.28	27,060.00	68%
Transfer FROM General Fund**	2,600.00	2,600.00	
Total Income & Transfers FROM Other Funds	\$ 20,947.28	\$ 29,660.00	71%
Expense			
Transfers TO Other Funds**			
Meetinghouse Improvement Transfer**	2,600.00	2,600.00	
College-Age Support Transfer**	-	17.00	
M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	688.00	688.00	
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	200.00	200.00	
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	3,488.00	3,505.00	100%
Meeting House			
House and Grounds			
Cleaning	820.00	1,200.00	
Equipment (\$5,211 for furnace)		-	
Landscaping	1,200.00	-	
Maintenance	238.00	2,100.00	
Supplies	22.44	-	
Total House and Grounds	2,280.44	3,300.00	69%
Insurance	3,781.00	3,750.00	101%
Total Utilities	1,141.59	1,850.00	62%
Total Meeting House	7,203.03	8,900.00	81%

** These items are transfers to/from other funds, not cash out/in.

Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity (PRELIMINARY) through October 31

	2020 Actual (Preliminary)	2020 Budget	Actual / Budget
Meeting Support			
Care and Nurture Committee	-	200.00	0%
Communications Committee	-	125.00	0%
Total Finance Committee	125.51	505.00	25%
Hospitality Committee	-	500.00	0%
Library Committee	-	100.00	0%
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	-	50.00	0%
Total Peace and Earth Ctte	-	100.00	0%
Total Racial Justice Committee	1,500.00	500.00	300%
Religious Education Ctte			
Book gifts	-	300.00	0%
Childcare	1,640.00	1,500.00	109%
First Day School	-	500.00	0%
SAYF	-	200.00	0%
Total Religious Education Ctte	1,640.00	2,500.00	66%
Spiritual Enrichment Ctte	-	100.00	0%
Total Meeting Support	3,265.51	4,680.00	70%
Outreach			
General Outreach	-	3,000.00	0%
Racial Justice Outreach	-	3,000.00	0%
Quaker Outreach	3,000.00	3,000.00	100%
SAYMA Dues	3,575.00	3,575.00	100%
Total Outreach	6,575.00	12,575.00	52%
Total Expenses & Transfers TO Other Funds	\$ 20,531.54	\$ 29,660.00	69%
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 415.74	\$ -	

Year-to-year Comparison

Income		Actual, as of 10/31	Budget for 2020	% of Year
Contributions	2020 - Current Year	17,646.80	25,250.00	70%
	2019 - Prior Year	16,990.93	25,306.93	67%
		Actual for 2019		

Attachment 2

Internet Service for Asheville Meeting House 11/5/2020

ISP	Skyrunner	Spectrum	Hot Spot (new plan)	Hot Spot (existing plan)
Speed (Mbps)	5	200	12	12
Access	Antenna	Cable Mobile	Mobile Network	Mobile Network
Limit (Gb)	150	None	15 (see note)	15 (see note)
Install	\$99 5+ weeks	\$50 2 weeks	\$40 0 weeks	\$40 0 weeks
Cost	\$45/mo	\$55/mo more after 24 mo	\$80/mo	\$20/mo
WiFi	not included	not included	included	included
Other	cost of wifi device	cost of wifi device	cost of hotspot device	cost of hotspot device

Note

Based on a one time speed test using a hotspot Zoom appears to use 3 to 4 Gb per hour. Depending on how long the connection is in use each Sunday the 15 Gb per month could be a factor. At 4 hours per month, the usage would be just under the 15 Gb limit. At 8 hours per month (2 hours per Meeting) the usage would be 30 Gb or twice the hotspot limit.

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