

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
1st Month 10, 2021

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, James Barham, Rylin Hansen, Robin Wells, Barbara Esther, Jim Cavener, Jane Fernandez, Kitti Reynolds, Ellie Cox, Patty Burgess, Barbara Burke, Satchel Loftis, Adrienne Weir, Steve Livingston, Jim Barton.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence. This month it is from A Practical Mysticism How Quaker Process Opens Us to the Promptings of the Divine by Elizabeth Meyer page 16. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 453. Copyright 2018 by Pendle Hill.

When a difficult matter comes before business meeting, we may feel we are going around in circles like the Israelites in the wilderness. We seem to be getting nowhere as the matter is laid over time after time for months or even years. Yet, the experience of wrestling with the problem can be transformational. Issues that have no easy answer require the community to settle into deeper worship, seeking Divine guidance. This is hard work, requiring us to listen deeply to one another and to Spirit. Sometimes it takes a difficult issue to break us open so that Spirit can come in. In brokenness, we let go of what separates us from the Divine to receive a new and willing spirit, and our souls are fed as with manna from heaven.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 12th month business meeting minutes with the following corrections: change the AFM members involved in the Just Us letter from Jane Fernandez to Sarah Jane Thomas; report that minutes were accepted not approved; clarify that it was the Quaker outreach checks and SAYMA dues that have been sent; remove the duplication of Satchel's financial report; Pat Johnson had reported that no contributions checks were received in that last week but a check for \$50 was received the prior week; both RJC & P&E deferred the \$3000 outreach to EOY.

Announcements:

SAYMA Survey: Bob Lackey

Bob reminded us of the request to fill out the SAYMA Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Survey (can be found in Digest 12/23/20). A friend told us that the planning meeting will meet the evening of 1/11/21 and asked all to please fill out the survey now.

Ellie Cox transfer letter and welcome: Bob Lackey

Bob told us that he had received a letter from Mr. Zelman about the transfer of Ellie Cox's membership from Brevard to AFM. All expressed a welcome to Ellie.

Minute #2: The transfer was approved with a warm expression of welcome to Ellie.

RJC Book Group: Gita Larsen

Gita had reported at close of AFM Worship meeting that on Tuesday 1/12/21 they will be reading Chapters 15 and 16 in My Grandmother's Hands from 7 to 8:30

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Pat Campbell

2020-01-01 through 2020-12-31 (preliminary)

Pat presented the preliminary report from the finance committee of the operating activity during 2020 year.(see Attachment)

She reported our income was \$26,385 and our expenditures were \$21,700. This leaves us with a surplus of \$4,675. These numbers include both income, expenditures and transfers. Pat noted that there was a temporary withholding of \$6000 for proposed outreach expenses. There were 4 recipient groups included in this funding. Two of the groups have spent their funding (Quaker outreach and SAYMA), where two have not (RJC and general outreach). There still is \$4675 to be spent from the 2020 budget. It was proposed that the funds go to outreach and RJC for use as their operating activity in 2020.

Minute #3: The meeting approved that \$3000 be spent for general outreach and that \$1675 be used by RJC for their expenses.

She reported that AFM has no outstanding liabilities plus currently has \$6213 held in cash and CD's.

Treasurer's report: Satchel Loftis and Pat Campbell
Treasurer presented a draft of 2021 budget.(Attachment) Pat stated that they started with the Income of \$27869 from the prior year and the expenditures of \$29030 again from prior year. These numbers included transfers to support the meeting house and special outreach. It showed a projected deficit of \$6000. They pointed out that there was unique spending in 2020 which was taken from the AFM resources (Covid Relief, a new furnace, painting of the meetinghouse and the back stairs which resulted in overspending and a deficit in the improvement funds.

They based the 2021 budget income of \$26385 on the income and transfers received in 2020. The Budget was based on \$22935 income which was based on actual contributions and interest received in 2020. In developing suggestions for dealing with the deficit, they first looked at what can't change (utilities, insurance) They subtracted

that amount and then prorated the remainder showing a 24% decrease in everyone's budget. (Every committee takes a 24% reduction). A friend pointed out that the reduction in RE is too much and that RE would not be able to take care of the first day supplies. The Library committee offered to give their budget of \$111 to RE. P&E and Spiritual Enrichment also offered their budgeted monies to go to RE. A Friend pointed out that there may be a reduction in our SAYMA dues, but this is yet to be determined. We need to complete our member census for SAYMA. Barbara Esther and Robin Wells will work on the AFM member census. The census will be needed by Ministry and Counsel and the Recording Clerk in February 2021.

Bob Lackey summarized: Additional funding needed for the RE would come from the Library, P&E and the Spiritual enrichment budgets. The 2020 final report and the 2021 budget would be reviewed again in the AFM February Business meeting.

House and Grounds: Bob Lackey reported for Jim Barham

A Spring yard work day is being planned, more information to come.

Ministry and Counsel Committee:

Planning clerk's committee to develop State of the Meeting report. Awaiting SAYMA queries. Clerk will be contacting each committee clerk and SAYMA rep and offer dates for Zoom committee clerks meeting. Write up first Draft of State of the Meeting Report to be presented at February BM.

Communications: Mike Eddy

He reviewed his research on the SAYMA and the AFM web sites. (see attachment) Mike had discovered that SAYMA was looking at using the proposed FGC website and cloud storage. He could not find cost to use FGC site or if FGC was using a commercial (google,etc)cloudsite or building their own cloud.

A friend raised concerns about questionable links being added and guidelines created for the site. There is a need to speak truth and to share with each other. Additional Questions arose about the need for guidelines as to what goes on the website. A friend told us that the SAYMA website has clearly stated norms and guidelines. We need other individuals from different minority and people of color groups to review the guidelines to ensure we are not unknowing discriminating in our guidelines, and are being inclusive. Mike reported on the AFM website. Our current site had a questionable link and he nor the developers do not know where or how it occurred. He stated that our site is NOT secure and it can be used easily by a hacker. He has developed an AFM prototype website making it secure. Some of our members have used the site to date. He is asking others to look at it and give feedback. Based on the feedback and analysis to insure security it will be used as AFM official website. The old site will be removed. Mike suggested that it be kept in the Quaker cloud with a cost of \$300/year, or the FGC cloud, cost to be determined?

Peace and Earth: Bob Lackey

Bob reported that AFM's letter re: Raytheon was published on 12/21/20.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 2nd month of 2021

ATTACHMENTS:

#1: **AFM- Finance Committee Report
2020-01-01 through 2020-12-31 (preliminary)**

Overview

Now that we have reached the end of the budget year for 2020, the finance committee provides this preliminary report on operating activity for the year 2020. We hope this report is useful for Meeting for Business to discern how much to spend on outreach.

Once the outreach spending amounts have been decided, we will provide a final report.

Operating Activity for 2020

Through the end of 2020, Meeting has recorded income-plus-transfers of approximately \$26,385, against expenditures-plus-transfers of approximately \$21,700. This leaves a surplus of approximately \$4,675. *Please note that Meeting has temporarily withheld \$6,000 in outreach spending that was budgeted for the year, so this surplus is preliminary and subject to change.*

As mentioned in an earlier report, the Outreach portion of the budget includes four groups of recipients. Two of the four have been fully spent, whereas the other two (Racial Justice and General Outreach) are on hold until Meeting decides how to proceed.

The Meeting has cash and certificates of deposit worth \$62,189 as of December 31, 2020. Meeting has no outstanding liabilities.

Special Spending in 2020

In 2020, Meeting spent from reserves for a number of projects.

Paid out of *restricted funds*:

- \$605 for Covid-19 relief to local organizations

This was part of a fundraising effort where Meeting collected \$5,650, for a total of \$6,225 that was given to six local groups to assist in their own Covid-19 relief efforts.

Paid out of *general reserves*:

- \$5,211 for a new furnace for the meeting house
- \$7,185 to paint the exterior of the meeting house and seal the recently constructed back deck and stairs
- \$1,577 to offset a deficit in the Meeting House Improvement Fund

#2: AFM- Finance Committee Report

Operating Budget for 2021

The second portion of this report concerns the development of the operating activity budget for 2021. The current Treasurer uses the term “version zero” for the starting point of the budget. The budgeted amounts are intended as recommendations or minimum amounts, which are usually based on prior/current year results. Readers should expect that the final budget may be substantially different than what is in the “version zero” budget.

Income is tentatively budgeted at \$22,935 for 2021.

For 2021, the contribution income and the rental income items have been highlighted. The budgeted amounts are \$22,800 and \$zero, respectively. Current times make difficult the planning of contributions during the second year of the coronavirus pandemic. The amount for contributions is constrained by the prior year's level (\$22,869). Offering the meeting house and grounds for rent as in past years will prove difficult.

Expenditures are tentatively budgeted at \$29,030 for 2021.

Expenditures are organized into four categories: transfers to restricted funds (10-15% of total), the Meeting House (30%), Meeting Support (15%), and Outreach (40-45%).

The line items that are highlighted are based on committee clerks' budget requests. Items not explicitly budgeted have been included at their 2020 levels to begin the planning process.

This leaves a projected deficit of <\$6,095> to be addressed.

Many approaches can be taken to eliminate the projected budget deficit. We have provided one example: each budget item absorbs a proportional amount of the deficit. (Items that cannot be reduced – insurance, meeting house utilities, payroll taxes – have been exempted from the pro-rata calculation.)

#3 Proposed 2021 budget for discussion: see attachment

#4 SAYMA Internet Resources Proposal

1) Public internet presence

- Descriptions of SAYMA & Quakers
- Announcements / Schedules
- Public Minutes once approved
- News

2) Private internet presence

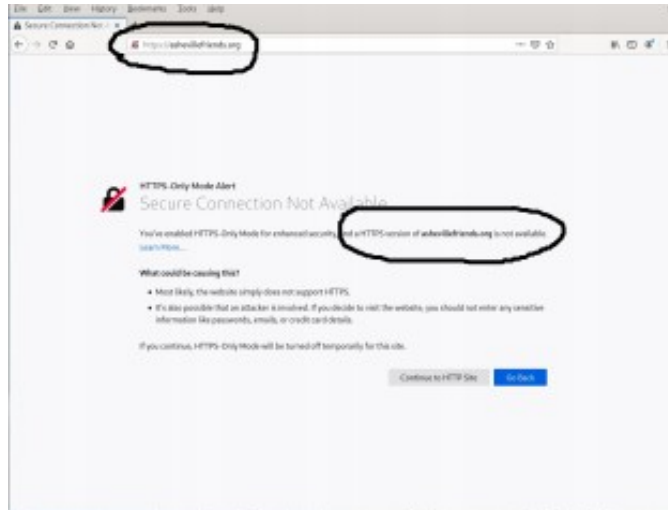
- login/password
- private documents
- collaboration

3) Digital Services Manager

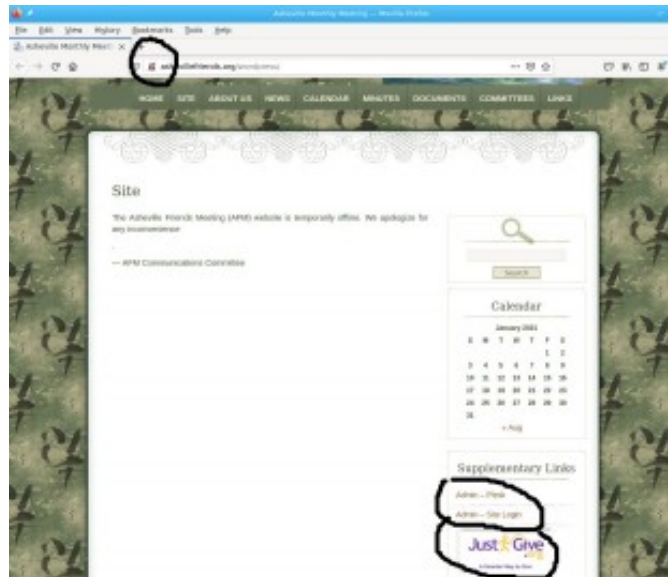
- Post / Update approved content
 - Report on "questionable or potentially offensive" posts / links -
- Manage passwords, software updates, accounts, developers

Issues with Current Website (ashevillefriends.org)

1) Current website is not secure



2) Login prompts on website itself



3) Donations Link on insecure website

4) WordPress Malware Redirect Hack

Adding themselves as a ghost admin on your website Injecting or uploading malicious code to your WordPress site Hackers can add malicious code to

- wp-content/plugins
- wp-content/uploads folders,
- wp-includes,

- wp-content/themes,
- wp-config.php file, etc



AFM Website Proposal

1) Domain Name (for testing)

227edgewood.org

2) Google Compute Engine

<https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs>

3) Letsencrypt

<https://letsencrypt.org/about/>

4) Google Account

227edgewood@gmail.com

5) If the replacement website is approved

reuse the existing domain - ashevillefriends.org reuse the
existing account - ashevillefriends@gmail.com

Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity (PRELIMINARY)

	2020 Actual (Preliminary)	2020 Budget	2021 Budget (version zero)	Adjusted Pro-rata
Operating Activity				
Income				
Contribution Income - Unrestricted	22,868.85	25,250.00	22,800	
Rental Income	780.00	1,500.00	-	
Interest Income - Unrestricted	136.69	310.00	135	
Total Income before Transfers	23,785.54	27,060.00	22,935	
Transfer FROM General Fund** (\$2,600)	2,600.00	2,600.00	-	
Total Income & Transfers from Other Funds	\$ 26,385.54	\$ 29,660.00	\$ 22,935	\$ 22,935
Expense				
Transfers TO Other Funds**				
Meetinghouse Improvement Transfer**	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600	1,916
College-Age Support Transfer**	-	17.00	17	17
M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	688.00	688.00	688	507
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	200.00	200.00	200	147
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	3,488.00	3,505.00	\$ 3,505	\$ 2,587
Meeting House				
Total House and Grounds	2,510.44	3,300.00	3,300	2,432
Insurance	3,781.00	3,750.00	3,800	3,800
Total Utilities	1,655.65	1,850.00	1,800	1,800
Total Meeting House	7,947.09	8,900.00	\$ 8,900	\$ 8,032

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

Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity (PRELIMINARY)

	2020 Actual (Preliminary)	2020 Budget	2021 Budget (version zero)	Adjusted Pro-rata
Meeting Support				
Care and Nurture Committee	-	200.00	200	147
Communications Committee (website)	120.00	125.00	125	92
Total Finance Committee	291.12	505.00	375	338
Hospitality Committee	-	500.00	250	184
Library Committee	-	100.00	150	111
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	-	50.00	50	37
Peace and Earth Ctte	-	100.00	100	76
Total Racial Justice Committee	1,500.00	500.00	500	368
Total Religious Education Ctte	1,790.00	2,500.00	2,200	1,621
Spiritual Enrichment Ctte	-	100.00	100	74
Total Meeting Support	3,701.12	4,680.00	\$ 4,050	\$ 3,049
Outreach				
General Outreach		3,000.00	3,000	2,211
Racial Justice Outreach		3,000.00	3,000	2,211
Quaker Outreach	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000	2,211
SAYMA Dues	3,575.00	3,575.00	3,575	2,634
Total Outreach	6,575.00	12,575.00	\$ 12,575	\$ 9,267
Total Expenses & Transfers TO Other Funds	\$ 21,711.21	\$ 29,660.00	\$ 29,030	\$ 22,935
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 4,674.33	\$ -	\$ (6,095)	\$ (0)

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