

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
5th Month 9, 2021

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

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Patti Hughes, Margaret Farmer, Raelin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Jim Barham, Sarah Jane Thomas, Jane Fernandes, Jim Barton, Elinor Cox

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

Spiritual Hospitality A Quaker's Understanding of Outreach by Harvey Gillman. P 21.

Pendle Hill Pamphlet 314, 1994.

“If we have done our part, Friends can rejoice in whatever path the spiritual explorer will take, and we can hope that the hospitality will be mutual. We can actually rejoice in the diversity and we do not need a formula which will iron out the differences. That seems to me to be Quakerism in practice. When I talk about the content of the Quaker treasure chest, I often refer to that wonderful epistle sent out to Friends everywhere written by Young Friends from all parts of the Quaker family in Greensboro in 1985. Here, after many tears and misunderstandings and strong disagreements, a group of Young Friends sat down together and, respecting each other, wrote out what for them was the essence of the Quaker good news. They came up with four sources of authority: the Light or voice in the heart, the discernment of the worshipping group, Christ speaking in the heart, and the words of the Bible.”

Minute #1: The 4th month business meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections to the P&E report corrections after the semi colon it should state UNCA not center, correct spelling of Adcock

Announcements:

SAYMA details, Steve Livingston

there are 9 days planned for this yearly meeting scheduled for Saturday June 5th through Sunday June 13th; there are three planned 2 ½ hour Business sessions; and 3 plenary speakers scheduled, many workshops plus some other activities.

Registration fee is lower this year (it is being held virtually and there are no room and board expenses). The registration starts May 10, 2021.

The RJC ‘book’ group has been discussing the podcast ‘seeing white’ on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome to join in the discussion. This week we will be talking about the 8th session ‘golden skin’. Let Morgan Murray know if you will be attending, so you can receive the zoom link.

Committees:

Ministry and Counsel;

Associate Members – Bob Lackey

The M&C committee has been working on creating a list of associate members, tracking down their address (physical and email), plus crafting a letter to send about becoming a full member. Bob read the following letter which was sent:

We are excited to offer you the opportunity to become a full member of Asheville Friends Meeting (AFM). As you may know, you currently have the status of associate member. Children of members of AFM are considered associate members until they

turn 18, at which time they have the opportunity to move into full membership.

Membership offers opportunities to engage with and broaden skills in the Quaker process and make important contributions to the functioning of our community. Many members have found it fulfilling to feel a greater sense of connection to the Quaker community at their monthly meeting and as part of the worldwide Quaker community. Membership let's you stand up and be counted and offers you the opportunity to be a participant in sharing our Quaker values.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and listen to your thoughts and questions about the process of becoming a member of Asheville Friends Meeting. If you are interested in taking this next step, please contact Bob Lackey, Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting at lackey394@gmail.com.

In the Light,

Ministry & Counsel,
Asheville Friends Meeting

They received 3 responses. One Associate member Nicholas Wells (son of Robin and David Wells) responded that he would like to become a full member. He was offered the opportunity for a clearness committee which he declined as he has been actively involved in Quaker meetings where he currently lives.

Minute #2: Nicholas Wells was kindheartedly welcomed as a new member into the Religious Society of Friends through the Asheville Friends Meeting.. Welcome Nick.

Bob clarified that Associate membership is not automatic for children of members. Parents are queried if they would like their child to become an associate member until the child is 18 years old when (s)he can make their own decision to move forward.

Use of the Meeting House during COVID19 – Patti Hughes

The committee doesn't feel it is time yet to open the meeting house. Even though people are vaccinated, one can still get the virus. There was much discussion on offering the meeting house to the groups that rent from us. Issues of cleaning between use, liability, use by other Quaker groups, or by rental groups. Creating a list of what cleaning needs to be done by the groups that would use the MH. It was pointed out that the porch and lawn are open for use by our committees and others as requested.

AFM is NOT ready to approve the opening of the Meeting House to others at this time. After the committee addresses the issues raised during the discussion they can return to BM with their request.

Finance: Bob Lackey presented the attached report provided since neither Ellen Carr, Treasurer, nor Satchel Loftis were available.

ATTACHMENT: April Quarterly Report (2021-01-01 through 2021-04-30 (INTERIM))

Basic Operating Activity

Overview

Having reached the end of the first four months of 2021, the finance committee provides this interim report on operating activity for the year to date.

Operating Activity for 2021

Through the first four months of 2021, Meeting has recorded income-plustransfers of approximately \$8,165, against expenditures-plus-transfers of approximately \$8,445. This creates a deficit of approximately <\$280>.

The Meeting has cash and certificates of deposit worth \$63,327 as of April

30, 2021. Meeting has no outstanding liabilities.

This interim report should be reviewed with the following notes for context:

- Gift contributions tend to be understated in the early part of the year, as the majority of contributions are received towards year-end.
- The full amount of internal fund transfers have been recorded.
- The full amount of annual insurance premiums have been paid

Please refer to the attachment for additional detail.

Thanks were expressed to Satchel for the summary and the interim report.

House and Grounds; Jim Bartham

Termite protection: there is termite damage in the building, but no evidence of current termite activity. We will need treatment and ongoing protection to ensure there is no new infestation. Jim has received 1 estimate for treating and providing ongoing protection. See the ATTACHMENT of the response from Dodson which is about 1/2 the cost from previous estimate from Terminex. Treatment will cost us \$1475 for treatment with a yearly fee for on going protection.

It was agreed that the termite treatment be done and that the finance committee should reflect the expense for both this one time treatment(protection) as well as an ongoing yearly fee.

Repair of the meetinghouse foundation: Jim reported that there is rotten wood on the NE corner of the building next to the kitchen vestibule right at the foundation corner. He pointed out that the bricks on the foundation corner can be pulled out by hand. He has received only one contractor response to his requests, with all others stating they are too busy and back upped with larger jobs to even make an estimate. See Attachment which contains the estimate from the one contractor, which estimates an expense of at least \$5000. It was agreed that Jim continue searching for more bids on the repair of

the rotten wood and foundation before committing to this expense. This expense also needs to be reflected in the 2021 budget.

Racial Justice Steve Livingston

Report of RJC work, including discussion of the Cookeville Minute.

Racial Justice Committee met on 5/3/2021, present were Gita Larson (co-clerk), Margaret Farmer, Morgan Murray, Beth Eddy, Adrienne Weir, and Steve Livingston. We discussed some of the ongoing work in our monthly and yearly meetings around the tensions that we are experiencing in our efforts to address and dismantle our white supremacy culture. We are not bringing a recommendation to the Meeting today, but we felt it was vital to acknowledge that our work is ongoing, far from complete, sometimes messy and sometimes not pretty, but essential to our well-being as a faith community committed to following the leading of Spirit. We feel it is imperative that Asheville Friends be aware of the tension bearing down on the Yearly Meeting that is aptly represented in two contrasting Monthly Meeting Minutes that have been distributed among all of the member meetings of SAYMA.

The first is from the Swannanoa Valley Friends Monthly Meeting. In their First Month 2021 business meeting they approved the following:

Swannanoa Valley Friends Monthly Meeting requests SAYMA

1. to cease serving as a financial pass-through entity for funding the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee;
2. to discontinue tolerating abusive behavior toward individuals, monthly meetings, and the yearly meeting by the clerk of the URJ committee;
3. and to cease allowing the URJ clerk to speak representing SAYMA

The Cookeville (TN) Monthly Meeting was led to speak out after the recent Representative Meeting held on Zoom on March 13th, to wit:

"As a group of almost all friends of European descent we have been educating ourselves about our cultural "norms" and blinders. This is

akin to a fish swimming in water becoming aware that there is such a thing as water and that they are living in it. White supremacy and the centering of whiteness is our home. We are comfortable in it. We breathe it, and can't conceive of any other way to be. We have a complete mindset to step back from. We have centuries of patterns to unravel and understand. As Quakers we hold fast to certain beliefs and ways of doing things. We do indeed have rituals and we give them weight and value.

"But we have found that to insist on doing things the way we have always done them is not being open to continuing revelation. We know experientially that Spirit manifests in many ways and forms, different parts of the same whole, if we could only be still, listen, and open ourselves to change.

"SAYMA URJ has been a strong impetus and influence to help us begin to be aware of what we are blindly participating in. We committed to this work as a covered Yearly Meeting in session together. This is not a comfortable process. In fact, it can be messy, painful, and downright ugly. We understand that there are many among SAYMA Meetings and Worship Groups who cannot support SAYMA URJ financially right now. We have felt and heard some of the pain on all "sides" of the current issues that are stirring up such turmoil in our midst. We strongly urge everyone, ourselves included, to listen deeply to what Spirit may be calling us to do, experience, and grow toward. We also hold fast to our experience that way will open with time and move us all forward together.

"Cookeville Friends have maintained a relationship with Paul Cuffee Worship Group and we ask that SAYMA formally recognize Paul Cuffee Worship Group as a part of SAYMA. We feel that this is the least we can do to offer our support. The Society of Friends is not hierarchical. Yearly Meeting cannot dictate to Monthly Meetings what they should do. The last word in the acronym of SAYMA is Association for a reason. Historically we do not seek to exclude or deny anyone's existence or experience. All who wish to associate with us have been welcomed. Whether or not Paul Cuffee Worship Group

wants to become associated with SAYMA we should offer this association to them in order to be consistent with our principles and traditions."

Racial Justice Committee has no request of the business meeting to respond to these minutes at this time, but we do ask that Friends hold the Yearly Meeting in the Light as Friends in our wider region seek clarity and enlightenment around this issue and the ways in which our white supremacy culture impedes our vision, and to acknowledge the similarities between the challenges facing the Yearly Meeting and those that we in Asheville Friends Meeting have yet to overcome in relation to our own internalized racism and unresolved racial trauma, and hold our own Meeting in the Light as we continue with the essential work of dismantling white supremacy culture in ourselves and in our communities.

Nominating: Mike Eddy

"The Nominating Committee is pleased to ask for Meeting's approval of Margaret Farmer, long-time member of our Meeting, to serve on the Ministry and Counsel Committee." She would replace Patti Hughes on July 1, 2021.

Minute #3: Special thanks was given to Patti Hughes for her service on M&C. Margaret Farmer was approved for Membership on M&C—the committee is excited to have her join them.

Mike pointed out that 3 Other committees need members: Library, Spiritual Enrichment and Care & Nurture

Care and Nurture Committee – Bob Lackey

The purpose of the AFM Care and Nurture Committee is to be aware of needs of members and attenders of AFM who we would be able to help. We ask for assistance from members and attenders to inform us of any needs that they are aware of. We provide cards, food and

transportation. We also visit people in their homes, in the hospital or in the hospice unit. We inform the Meeting when someone is in need of assistance and ask the Meeting to help us provide this assistance. We ask the Meeting to Hold In The Light those in need. We are always aware that we are not professionals in any health care or other critical need situation, but might be able to refer people to outside help that could be available.

Communications:

SAYMA; WQO allocations – Bob Lackey

Bob reminded us that we had already responded to the SAYMA WQO request. But after our response we received the following from SAYMA:

A Friend has pointed out a truly silly omission in our recent letter. The Allocations proposal, presumably modified after MM reactions, will be presented at some point during YM business sessions June 11-13. It would be helpful to have MM responses to the allocations proposal at least by May 20th and certainly no later than the end of May. If your MM has reflections or even conclusions about the broader questions raised in our letter, these can be included then but really come at any time, since it is unlikely that any action could be decided on this year.

For SAYMA's WQO Allocations Committee
SAYMA WQO Allocations Committee Letter to Monthly Meetings,
3.26.21

Dear Meeting Clerks and Friends,

This email is to provide you with the promised *proposed* 2022 disbursements of YM funds to WQOs (not presented at RM246) and to raise several additional issues for your discernment. We hope you will find time to consider these matters and give us seasoned responses.

As you know, this committee process for WQO allocations was instituted a few years ago in response to the perception that Friends

generally wanted a differential allocation of these funds and to the strong sense of the Finance Committee that while Finance was to budget a general amount, it was certainly not in good order for Finance to determine the specific allocations or the WQOs to receive them. Both of these tasks properly belong to the monthly meetings, in the persons of their representatives, collectively assembled in RMs and YMs as SAYMA, now with the Allocations Committee providing support and a forum for collaborative decision.

So how does your meeting see the 2022 proposal? The criteria were approved in YM but would you see them changed? Would you like to add to or delete from the list of WQOs? Is there a member of your meeting who could serve on the Allocations Committee, currently down to two members?

Some other possibilities to consider. Since the money involved is a purely symbolic pittance, some say, why not decide to divide it up in equal amounts and avoid all this hassle? Of course, the size of the WQO budget could be increased. Again, why have SAYMA making these contributions at all? The money comes from monthly meetings – why shouldn't you add these moneys to what you and your members are already contributing to groups you choose? Another suggestion is to have a SAYMA-wide project focused on one single WQO, or other group, involving contributions of more substantial money and the personal time and effort of Friends from various meetings.

If any of these or other ideas stir interest in your meeting, we would be pleased to hear and you might consider a minute to the SAYMA Clerk.

Recognizing the imposition involved in trying to slip another chunk of business into your meeting schedule, we most sincerely thank you for whatever time and attention you can give these concerns.

For the SAYMA WQO Allocations Committee

Wood Bouldin, Clerk

2022 WQO Allocations Committee Proposal

Criteria (ranked 1-5, low to high)

1. How important is this organization to the face [public image] of Friends?
2. How are the YM and Members of MMs involved in the organization's work?
3. What is the degree to which its work fits within a social issue important to SAYMA?
4. What is the [budgetary] impact of our contribution?

	Face	Involvement	Issue	Impact	TOTAL	SUGGESTED %
AFSC	5	3	4	1	13	11
Bolivian Quaker Ed	1	1	4	2	8	6
FCNL	5	5	5	1	16	13
Friends Peace Team	3	3	5	3	14	11
FLG	2	2	3	3	10	8

BTQ						
Friends Journal	3	4	3	1	11	8
QEW	3	3	5	2	13	11
Quaker House	4	4	5	2	15	13
QVS	3	4	5	2	14	11
RSWR	3	2	4	1	10	8

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 6th month of 2021.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1: House and Grounds responses termite treatment
- 2: foundation repair

3: April quarterly financial report (1Q21)

From: Sales 029a - Asheville, NC sales029a@dodsonbros.com
Subject: Termite and pest control 227 Edgewood Rd.
Date: April 27, 2021 at 9:07 AM
To: jebarham46@gmail.com



The cost for performing pest control on 227Edgewood Rd will be \$80 every other month with a initial fee of\$185.This will control the carpenter ants which is the main problem.Other insects such as pavement ants wasps horne ground beetles millipedes etc will be treated for.

The cost of termite protection will be \$1475 with a waranty of\$150 yearly.If termite activity is found after treatment while under waranty we will retreat to mitigate the termites.

Thanks,Vince Geraci District Inspector Dodson pest control

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



May 6, 2021

Asheville Society of Friends
227 Edgewood Rd.
Asheville, NC 28804

Attn: Jim Barham

Dear Jim:

I enjoyed meeting you last week. Thank you for showing me around y'all's beautiful property and sharing your vision with me.

Per your request, please find our pricing for the repair/rebuilding of the NE corner of the building. Work to include the removal of existing concrete step (to be replaced by a temporary wood step) and all siding/trim removal necessary to uncover all wood rot/water damage, replacement of rotten/damaged wood and replacing the siding with like kind. Painted to match existing. Loose brick to be mortared back in.

Labor and Material

\$5,700

Please note, this is a cost projection only, based on time, materials, subcontractors and a 30% O&P. The final invoicing may vary higher or lower depending on conditions found after work has started.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you.

Warm wishes,

5 Ravenscroft Drive, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.1841 info@lobobuilders.com



Thomas Wolfe, III

President

5 Ravenscroft Drive, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28801
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Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity 2021 Budget (Proposed)

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Actual / Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Activity				
Income				
Contribution Income - Unrestricted	8,145.55	23,800.00	34%	(15,654.45)
Rental Income	-	-	---	-
Interest Income - Unrestricted	20.15	133.00	15%	(112.85)
Total Income before Transfers	8,165.70	23,933.00	34%	(15,767.30)
Total Transfers FROM Other Funds**	-	-		-
Total Income & Transfers from Other Funds	\$ 8,165.70	\$ 23,933.00	34%	\$ (15,767.30)
Expense				
Transfers TO Other Funds**				
Meetinghouse Improvement Transf	1,426.00	1,426.00	100%	-
College-Age Support Transfer**	-	17.00	0%	(17.00)
M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	377.00	377.00	100%	-
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	110.00	110.00	100%	-
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	1,913.00	1,930.00	99%	(17.00)
	23%			
Meeting House				
Total House and Grounds	1,150.00	3,300.00	35%	(2,150.00)
Insurance	3,950.00	3,800.00	104%	150.00
Total Utilities	626.55	1,800.00	35%	(1,173.45)
Total Meeting House	5,726.55	8,900.00	64%	(3,173.45)
	68%			

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

Asheville Friends Meeting
2020 Operating Activity 2021 Budget (Proposed)

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Actual / Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Meeting Support				
Care and Nuture Committee	-	110.00	0%	(110.00)
Communications Committee (websit	-	69.00	0%	(69.00)
Total Finance Committee	57.40	311.00	18%	(253.60)
Hospitality Committee	-	137.00	0%	(137.00)
Library Committee	-	82.00	0%	(82.00)
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	-	27.00	0%	(27.00)
Peace and Earth Ctte	-	59.00	0%	(59.00)
Total Racial Justice Committee	-	274.00		(274.00)
Religious Education Ctte				
* Childcare	750.00	1,800.00	42%	(1,050.00)
First Day School	-	219.00	0%	(219.00)
Total Religious Education Ctte	750.00	2,019.00	37%	(1,269.00)
Spiritual Enrichment Ctte	-	55.00	0%	(55.00)
Total Meeting Support	807.40	3,143.00	26%	(2,335.60)
	10%			
Outreach & SAYMA				
General Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
Racial Justice Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
Quaker Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
SAYMA Assessment	-	5,025.00	0%	(5,025.00)
Total Outreach	-	9,960.00	0%	(9,960.00)
	0%			
Total Expenses & Transfers TO Other Fu	\$ 8,446.95	\$ 23,933.00	35%	\$ (15,486.05)
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (281.25)	\$ -		\$ (281.25)

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Asheville Friends Meeting - Finance Committee Report

Period covered 2021-01-01 through 2021-04-30 (INTERIM)

Activity reported Basic Operating Activity

Please refer to the attached activity report for additional detail.

Overview

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