

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

### **Asheville Friends Meeting**

**12th Month 11, 2022**

**Present in the Meetinghouse:** Pat Johnson, Clerk, Barbara Burke, Recording Clerk, Mike Eddy, Sarah Jane Thomas, Zoe Wallace, Jim Barham, Kitti Reynolds, Steve Livingston, Katherine Kowal, Satchel Loftus, Barbara Esther, Rusty Maynard, Susanne Junkin-Friederichs, Robin Wells, Laura Maynard Lane, Patty Burgess, Kim Wagner

**Present via Zoom:** Beth Eddy, Rylin Hansen, Gita Larson, Ellie Cox, Joel O'Brien, Susan Oehler, Margaret Normile, Margaret Farmer

Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

*A Living Faith: An Historical and Comparative Study of Quaker Beliefs*, by Wilmer A. Cooper, founding dean of Earlham School of Religion. Friends United Press, 2nd edition, 2000, pp 206-207.

### **An Emerging Quaker Spirituality**

Some time ago I was talking with a thoughtful and perceptive young Friend who believes that there is “an emerging Quaker spirituality,” which he has experienced among some Friends. If that is so, then perhaps that is the most promising sign of the future. No amount of “fixing” the Society will come to much unless there is an underlying spirituality that is alive and well, as we claim it was in the early days of the Quaker movement.

As one moves around among Friends, there are signs of this spirituality, and where it appears, it is indeed refreshing. But how widespread is this, and is it sufficient to make any claim for the future? Doubtless there have always been

“alive” Friends and “alive” Meetings. So is what we see today any different? Indeed the non-aliveness of so many Friends and their Meetings causes one to be very cautious about forecasting the future. We may pray and we may hope, however, that this young Friend is right and that God may be ready to gather “a new people” in our day as “a great people” was gathered in George Fox’s day. With this vision of hope, let us dedicate ourselves to the vision of “an emerging spirituality” that has both temporal and eternal meaning, significance and durability.

## **Approve Agenda**

**Minute #1:** Draft Agenda approved

## **Approve 11th Month Business Meeting Minutes**

**Minute #2:** 11th Month Business Meeting Minutes approved, with the addition of SAYMA requirements for background checks.

## **Announcements: Pat Johnson**

A Friend who will be attending several different meetings over the holidays has submitted a request for a Travel Letter to bring our greetings to these meetings.

The Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 14th, at 8 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Asheville. An advertisement from the Asheville Friends Meeting (AFM) will be in the souvenir program, courtesy of money provided by the Finance Committee. Tickets for adults attending are \$25, or a table for ten can be purchased for \$250. Scholarships are also available. A Friend said that if 10 people are planning to attend, we purchase a table and sit together. Another Friend suggested we could purchase a table, whether or not we had 10 people ready to commit right now.

Guilford College maintains Quaker archives. Meetings send their Business Meeting minutes and other Meeting reports, records of births, deaths, marriages, and memberships. We have a minute of organization for the meeting 12/1967, and a mix of original minutes and newsletters with minutes, with some gaps, for 7/1972-12/1976 and 1/1982-12/2002; Listening Project file 1993-1994; and select State of the Meeting reports 1977-1993 in addition to a few directories and reports from the 1980s and 1990s. This indicates a significant backlog of reports sent to Guilford. The clerk asked if the Meeting wants to consider possibly submitting notes, announcements, state of the meeting reports that are missing, or begin a concerted effort to submit the above beginning now, and asked that members consider this, and it will be revisited.

### **Committees:**

#### Nominating - Kitti Reynolds

The Nominating Committee has nominated Margaret Normile and Ellie Cox to the Library Committee. Kitti also encouraged younger Friends and anyone else to put themselves forward for nomination for the committee.

**Minute #3:** Ellie Cox & Margaret Normile approved as members of the Library Committee

#### Junior Business Meeting - Patty Burgess

Alice Lane, clerk, presented the report.

1. A service project was presented to the Meeting, which will collect the following materials for a Warming Pack:
  - Gloves
  - Socks
  - Scarves
  - ChapStick
  - Hand lotion
  - Hand/feet warmers

- Band-aids
- Alcohol wipes

There will be a box in the foyer until January 23rd for the collection of these items.

2. An old report concerning the playground was revisited. The suggestions include:
  - Obtaining a tire, possibly from a dump or the river, paint it blue, and make it into a tire swing.
  - Get a sturdier shed.
  - Put up the structure we already have, safely

3. First Day School attenders enjoy doing crafts, and would like to have crafts with every lesson. If adult members need help with the crafts, there is a committee, consisting of Alice Lane, Eden Ward, Adelaide and Anders Utz who will help the adults who are presenting lessons.

4. Rules for the tree:

- A ribbon will be attached to the tree as a height limit.
- Limbs that are not safe will be marked.

A Friend announced that he has a tire swing available, that he would like to donate to the playground.

Another Friend appreciates all the work Junior Meeting put into their report.

**Minute #4:** Junior Business Meeting Report accepted

## House & Grounds - Jim Barham

The House and Grounds committee is asking approval to remove the Meeting House gutters.

Gutters and fascia on the Meetinghouse: The necessity of annual cleaning creates an ongoing expense for the Meeting. Because it is inaccessible for painting the fascia has rotted in many places. An architect was able to view and ascertained that there is a rotting problem present. Rot could extend to the joists which would cause problems for the entire Meeting House.

H&G met and discussed possible suggestions:

1. Removing the gutters permanently and replacing the fascia. A no-gutter system may be the best way to go.

2. Replace all the fascia with a product called AZEK which is not a composite, but a PVC product and no painting is required. AZEK could possibly fail in the future but this is more common at extremes of weather, not usually present here. The architect thinks AZEK would be a good idea.

A discussion of the proposal ensued. A Friend mentioned that no gutters could lead to water draining towards the building though the back area is concrete and constructed to drain water away from the building. Water sheeting off the front of the building is not likely to create a trench due to the thick shrubbery. Another suggestion was that gravel (Riprap) could be used to prevent the "trenching" (dirt eroding) around the house. There is already some trenching at the west end of the porch. The question of cost was raised. A member suggested that we could bring rocks or stones on our own to cut down on cost and said smooth rocks would be safer.

A Friend said that gutters may be needed on certain sides of the building due to wind, or dripping over an entryway. A member said that gravel may not be needed immediately, and we may want to see where erosion

occurs over a period of time, as deflection of water by shrubbery below the roof is currently present. Landscaping may help prevent erosion in areas subject to direct water downfall, but removal of the gutters may prevent direct water downfall, and instead produce a dripline. Shrubby present would prevent trenching in the area of the dripline, so gravel may not be needed, but we would need to assess this over a period of time.

The gutters, if removed, could be sold as salvage, or donated to an organization such as Beloved. Another Friend suggested storing the gutters for a few years to see if we needed to or wanted to use them down the road.

A Friend proposed we approve taking bids, and review the bids before deciding if the gutters and fascia should be removed.

Jim said estimates will be brought to Meeting in the future, for work to be done after the gutters are removed, as gutter removal enables an informed bid on the cost to replace defective fascia. A Friend asked what kind of rot is present, wet or dry, but it isn't known yet.

Another Friend asked if French drain would be better but a Friend said probably not, as they are more useful if water does not, or cannot, drain away from the structure.

A Friend asked if there is currently rot in the joists, but this cannot be ascertained until the fascia is removed. A diverter could be used over the entryway, to divert the water to the edges of the entryway so it would not drip down on those coming up the steps. The east and west sides of the Meeting House would not need the Riprap because of the angle of the roof.

A Friend asked if we could paint the Meeting room, and offered to buy the paint. Several members offered to help paint.

**Minute #5:** The House and Grounds' request to remove the gutters and get bid estimates for this was approved.

## Communications - Mike Eddy

Mike investigated the possibility of providing internet access to the Meetinghouse. Results presented below.

Internet Service for Asheville Meeting House				12/11/22
ISP	Skyrunner	Spectrum	AT&T	
Speed (Mbps)	5 / 10 / 25	500	300 / 500 / 1000	
Access	Antenna	Cable	Fiber	
Limit (Gb)	150 / 500 / unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	
Cost to install	\$99	free	free	
Time to install	5+ weeks	2 weeks	???	
Cost per month	\$45 / \$65 / \$85 / \$135 forever	\$40 (limited offer) For 24 months	\$55 / \$65 / \$80 for 12 months	
WiFi	1 included	\$5/month	1 included	

A Friend asked what the problem is with hotspot usage and why should we pay for Internet access to only be used on Sundays and by outside groups? A cellular hotspot is not as reliable as a dedicated connection to an internet service provider. Youth retreats also use the Internet when at the Meeting House and it is a preferred route. A Friend felt strongly that non-cellular ISP is vital for remote Meetings (Zoom). Renters also have requested Internet access. A Friend asked if the use of a personal Hotspot was safe and do we want something better than a Hotspot? Another Friend felt that yes, we do want something better and felt that it is necessary in this day and age for communication. A Friend felt the cellular signal hotspot is not adequate for Meeting.

Another Friend thanked the Meeting for considering Internet access as she attends Meeting online. Having Internet access may open us to further use of the Meeting House by other groups. This service could also give us access to other (outside) communities.

Skyrunner does not have sufficient bandwidth for our needs, a Friend pointed out.

A Friend said renters want reliable WiFi for their meetings and rental fees could help cover the additional cost of WiFi. 2021 and 2022 budget did not include rental income, but the Finance clerk said that the estimate for rental income will be significant in the 2023 budget. Rental coordinator said that some groups have not returned due to lack of WiFi.

A discussion followed concerning costs. A router is needed for WiFi but it can be purchased so rental fees would not be charged. Most introductory offers end in 12-24 months. A member thanked the committee for the work done on this request. Friends discussed the merits of Spectrum versus AT&T, and Spectrum appeared to be the clear choice.

**Minute #6:** Communications request for Internet access through Spectrum is approved.

Finance - Ellen Carr & Satchel Loftis 2022 budget reviewed.

Budget shows we are behind on donations but many donations come in during December, so though we are behind, the final numbers can change. Final numbers will be available at the January Business Meeting. Utilities have increased over the past year, and this is attributed to both inflation and use of the Meeting House by renters. We also are now paying for a Youth Group coordinator which we have not done in the past. Outreach checks will be sent out at the end of the year for the full amount budgeted.

2023 budget:

The Youth Group coordinator is now paid a salary, and that will be included in the budget, and there will be a rate increase in wages for the people who perform duties at the Meeting House

There will likely be an increase in income from rentals

There is a guideline that we do not budget more in the coming year than we receive in income in the previous year.

Our current net operating deficit is \$3000.

Contribution revenue is constrained. A \$4500 increase in expenses is expected.

There will be an increase in the landscaping budget for some necessary yearly items that have not been included in the past along with an increase in salary.

A Friend reminded us that the driveway needs to be repaired.

**Minute #7:** The Finance Report was accepted

Meeting closed with silent worship until way opens for our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in the first month of 2023

## **Addendum**

📄 AFM - Operating Activity FY2022 - As of 2022-12-10 (2).pdf

📄 AFM - Prelim budget 2023.pdf