

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Meeting

A Called Business Meeting

Asheville Friends Meeting

First Month 16, 2023

DRAFT

Present via Zoom: Pat Johnson, Clerk, Barbara Burke, Recording Clerk, Jim Barham, NancyLynn Sharpless, Kitti Reynolds, Rusty Maynard, Zoe Wallace, Joel S. O'Brien, Barbara Esther, Katherine Kowal, Laura Lane, Mike Eddy, Beth Eddy, Robin Wells, Morgan Murray, Rusty Maynard

Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading for attendees to read on their own.

From *Letters From An American*, January 15, 2023
By Heather Cox Richardson

On April 3, 1968, the night before the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated by a white supremacist, he gave a speech in support of sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. Since 1966, King had tried to broaden the Civil Rights Movement for racial equality into a larger movement for economic justice. He joined the sanitation workers in Memphis, who were on strike after years of bad pay and such dangerous conditions that two men had been crushed to death in garbage compactors.

After his friend Ralph Abernathy introduced him to the crowd, King had something to say about heroes: "As I listened to Ralph Abernathy and his eloquent and generous introduction and then thought about myself, I wondered who he was talking about."

Dr. King told the audience that, if God had let him choose any era in which to live, he would have chosen the one in which he had landed. “Now, that’s a strange statement to make,” King went on, “because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land; confusion all around.... But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars.” Dr. King said that he felt blessed to live in an era when people had finally woken up and were working together for freedom and economic justice.

He knew he was in danger as he worked for a racially and economically just America. “I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter...because I’ve been to the mountaintop.... Like anybody, I would like to live a long life.... But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!”

Approve Agenda

Minute #1: The agenda is approved.

Committees: House & Grounds: Jim Barham

The gutters have been removed, and the fascia that is exposed shows rot in several areas. The roof edge at the front of the house has some rough metal showing that is the remnants of an old drip edge, made from salvaged metal.

There is a leak in the porch roof that goes through to the porch ceiling to the porch. The house roof is estimated to be more than 30 years old. The H&G Committee proposes replacing the roofs of both the Meeting House and the porch. Two roofing companies came and gave estimates for the work. Estimates were given for doing both the porch roof only and for

replacing the roofs on the whole house. One company's (DLV) estimate for the porch roof alone was \$4500 and the other company's (Balcken) estimate for the porch roof was \$8000. Balcken's estimate for the house roof replacement alone was \$19,000. DLV did not give an estimate for the house-only roof replacement. Both companies estimated doing both the porch roof and the roof of the house together for about \$23,800. The DLV estimate for the whole house, including the porch, is \$23,897 and Balcken's estimate for the same is \$23,800. The H&G committee feels that the entire Meeting House roof replacement is overdue, and feels that this is urgent. A committee member suggested Balcken as she feels it is a good company, and she volunteered to go through both contracts line by line with the H&G clerk to see what each included. Another committee member stated a family member had experience with Balcken and has had favorable results. A Friend said she used DLV for a roof replacement and recommended them. Another Friend felt that the Meeting needed to decide whether to authorize the expenditure of the roofs' replacement and if it did the H&G Committee should decide which company should be given the contract.

Jim stated that Balcken's estimate did not include getting the fascia off or back on, so that work would be an additional expense. In addition to that expense, the fascia would need to be removed while the roof was still in place, which could lead to problems because of the metal drip edge hanging from the porch edge, as mentioned earlier. Jim felt DLV estimate which included fascia removal and replacement is the more economical choice. As a religious organization taxes would be avoided.

A member asked what grade of shingles would be used. Jim indicated that he asked for a GAF brand called Timberline HD, 25 year guarantee, but the DLV estimate was for a different brand. He will need to get back to them about this, but he felt the cost change would be small. A member stated that the DLV quote was for a brand called Certainteed, with a Sure Start Plus 25 year Warranty. A Friend asked when the roof might be done, if the request was approved, but Jim does not yet know the date.

Satchel, Assistant Treasurer , showed a chart on a shared screen and indicated that the money shown in restricted funds can be reallocated by the Meeting, unless a donor has specified that a donation is for a specific project. The list presented on-screen contains the building and house related funds that have been created over time for things related to the Meeting House. These include:

- House and Grounds Emergency Fund \$5500
- Meetinghouse Improvement Fund \$3504
- Building Fund \$31,313

In addition there were certain bequests made to the Meeting that were included on the chart. When these gifts were received, the Meeting set them aside to be allocated as the Meeting saw fit.

- The Alice Brown bequest \$498
- The Evey Freette bequest \$10,000

Satchel said that if the House and Emergency Fund, Meeting House Improvement Fund, and the 2 bequests were used, this would amount to slightly less than \$20,000, and the remaining amount could be taken from the Building Fund, but he questioned the wisdom of draining the H&G Emergency Fund. A Friend stated she thought part of the money in the H&G Emergency Fund was being held in anticipation of having to replace an old furnace.

Another Friend considers the roof replacement to be important, but not an emergency, because the leaky porch roof may not indicate the need for a roof replacement, but may be due to other causes. He asked if the roof could be inspected to see if only some shingles and not all need to be replaced, because variation in wear may be present. While that inspection is being done the source of the porch leak could be ascertained. He also indicated that the main house roof may have been replaced in 1998, and is therefore 25 years old, not 30. He did not feel it was an emergency that needed to be done immediately.

Jim indicated that both roofing contractors who were on the roof indicated the shingles should be replaced.

A Member said that the Building Fund had been built up after the mortgage was paid off. There had been talk of buying a larger place, but it was decided to stay present in the current building. The money that had been going to pay the mortgage was then put towards the Building Fund, to take care of things needed to maintain the building.

A House and Grounds committee member welcomes input from Members who have suggestions for H&G issues before the Committee meets, so the Committee would have the details to possibly include in their presentations.

The Clerk said she has had emails from 6 members who indicated support for the request from H&G to obtain estimates for a new roof and proceed with replacing both roofs.

A Member asked if either contractor made any comments about the roof's condition and whether it actually needed to be replaced. A Friend said she had used one of the contractors mentioned and asked him to look at another roof on her property, and he indicated that the roof in question did not need to be replaced. She also pointed out that we need and trust H&G to care for our house building and surroundings in good order, especially as the Meeting members are aging.

A Friend felt that the roof replacement is urgently needed, and as a younger Friend he sees maintaining the house and grounds as an investment in the future of the Meeting. He strongly encourages the approval of the Meeting.

Another Friend said that although he advocates selling the Meeting House and using the money to help other peoples' lives, he does believe that replacing the roof is a sound decision at this time.

A Member stated she would hate to see any further damage occur in the Meeting House, and supported replacing the roof, and appreciated another Friend's statement about the purpose of the Building Fund money.

Minute #2: The Meeting approved the H&G request to replace the porch and Meeting House roofs. The contractor used will be determined by the H&G Committee. The cost approved is up to \$28,000. The Meeting approved the money would be taken out of the Building Fund.

Anyone can make donations to the Building Fund, or any other fund.

The Meeting thanks the H&G's hard work, prompt response to the situation and for obtaining the bids so quickly.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business in the Second Month of 2023.

Asheville Friends Meeting
Fund Balances

Fund Balances, as of 2022-12-31

Fund Name	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance	Net Change
Building	31,164.88	31,313.64	148.76
House & Grounds Emergency	6,000.00	5,550.00	(450.00)
Meetinghouse Improvement	1,904.12	3,604.12	1,700.00
Memorial: Alice Brown Bequest 2009	498.66	498.66	-
Memorial: Evey Frerotte Bequest 2021	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
	18,402.78	19,652.78	1,250.00