

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**  
**Eighth Month 11, 2024**

**Present in the Meetinghouse:** Pat Johnson, Clerk, Barbara Esther, Back Up Recording Clerk, Robin Wells,, Debra Rice, Ellie Cox, Steve Livingston, Sarah Jane Thomas, Margaret Normile, Diantha Hodges, Ethan Miller, Suzanne Friedrichs, Rylin Hansen &, Bobby Carter.

**Present via Zoom:** Kitti Reynolds. Gita Larson, Satchel Loftis, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy and Joel O'Brien.

The Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence.

**Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations**

From the Center for Action and Contemplation, Saturday, August 03, 2024

*Buddhist Quaker Valerie Brown encourages an intentional and loving approach to community:*  
As a teacher at Pendle Hill outside Philadelphia, I continue to grow in my understanding of community.

Community calls me toward recognizing the shadow side of myself: the ways in which I am hard, distant, rigid, and unforgiving. Community shows me when I am placing my needs before others, showing up distracted or late, and taking others for granted. The opportunity I am then given is to ask essential questions: Can I be transparent and undefended without collapsing when this feedback comes my way? Can I notice, name, and investigate with open curiosity what I am feeling? Can I offer myself and others kind attention without judgment or blame? The gift of community is the mirror that reflects back to me, that offers me a chance to live into a better part of myself.

**Agenda**

**Minute #1:** Friends accepted the agenda..

**Seventh Month Business Meeting Minutes Draft Minute #2:** The Meeting approved the Seventh Month Business Meeting Minutes with the addition of those attending on Zoom and the removal of Robin Wells from assistant regarding the minutes.

**Announcements:** Pat Johnson

We had a successful workday on 07/20/2024 weeding the bed across the front of the Meetinghouse, the pollinator garden, and the side and front sections (down by the road). We also organized the kitchen a little bit but more work is needed in the kitchen. We got a lot done and the place is looking better! Thanks to all who helped out!

Our Debra Rice Welcoming will be on Sunday, August 18th, 2024 after Rise of Meeting. We have cake and ice cream in the freezer but we'll also have one of Debra's favorite desserts since she doesn't like cake. To make this celebration even more special we'll have some community activities to share.

Landon and Jen Ward are back!. We will have a welcome home party after they return from a family visit in Texas and are more acclimated.

A text from David, Bob's son, on the day following the memorial for Bob Smith: "Morning, Robin. Just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the glorious celebration of my Dad's life y'all hosted yesterday. I don't think I've ever been in a room more filled with love. It was a humbling experience and I will carry it with me for the rest of my days. Thank you for everything. It was perfect. Much love, David."

Ministry and Counsel will be meeting with David and Donna before David returns to NY leaving Donna alone. We hope to glean more about the ways we can be supportive of Donna.

We will soon need a new Clerk. Pat Johnson's term ends at the end of September. We've contacted a few folks but they've all declined to take this role. Please consider whether you are called to be our next Clerk. You'll have lots of support from all of our former Clerks so you're not alone when Clerking our Meeting.

Pat Johnson attended the *Protecting Mother Earth* Conference offered by the Indigenous Environmental Network/Just Transition. Based on her experience there she was compelled to ask for more time to allow further discernment on the proposal to Meeting regarding our commitment to payment for our Meeting's carbon footprint. The matter will be brought to Peace and Earth Committee's next meeting at the beginning of September and Friends can expect a recommendation from the Committee at the next business meeting.

### **COVID Discussion**

COVID is still a concern to be watched. Concerned individuals can wear masks and we ask people to bring any concerns to M&C. We have removed the words "low COVID level" from our closing words. We have changed our door signs to read "Masks are available in the foyer for those concerned about COVID."

We considered what protocol is needed and helpful toward keeping attenders at Meeting as safe as possible. It was suggested that people notify our clerk when someone in the Meeting is exposed or tests positive. For some of us, we know we are in situations that make exposure more critical. Expediency is key. Parents have sometimes been sensitive to having their names, or those of their children, mentioned as having tested positive. However, we recognize that proximity to anyone who tests positive after they were close to those in Meeting is useful information. Taking personal responsibility and having a set protocol and a quick response will help in keeping everyone safe. We are encouraged to report so that we can care for each other when we know that COVID is occurring widely. Taking attendance would help us keep track of who might have been exposed. This assumes that nobody is asymptomatic. Fortunately, the current strain of the virus is less dangerous for most of us. If only one of us is affected with a bad outcome, it would be regrettable. Could we make a short list of those in the meeting with extreme vulnerability? Having COVID repeatedly can also be more problematic. When there is a surge either here or elsewhere, we must be more reactive. Continuing discussions will help us to achieve that. We can continue using Universal precautions. CDC does not report COVID prevalence by county anymore but there is a widget to see hospitalizations. The MSD is the source for information about the earliest rise in levels in this community. A request was made to continue to consider ways for community activities to continue in a safe manner.

**Minute #3:** Friends approved that anyone who has COVID having attended meeting will inform the clerk or M&C Clerk, Robin Wells, who will ask for permission to share the name of that person. The COVID alert notice will go out via email to the bulk of those who attend Meeting.

### **Committees:**

**House and Grounds:** Tim Burgess & Robin Wells

### **The Meetinghouse Fascia**

We continued discussion of how to deal with our unpainted fascia on the Meetinghouse. Last month, House & Grounds made a recommendation to have Rogelio Gomez of Alpha Pro Painting prime, paint, and caulk the fascia. A concern was raised at Business Meeting that the fascia wood may not be treated lumber, but we have since learned that it is treated. Not only that, it has had several months to dry out in preparation for painting. Unfortunately, it is beginning to show wear from not being painted and we risk damage to our Meetinghouse. We should not delay.

**From Doug Lane, our handyman:**

You still have to stain/paint/treat treated wood or it will deteriorate faster. You typically have to let it dry for 6-9 months and then coat it. That's why most decks are stained or water proofed every few years. Otherwise they crack and get real rough. Caulking keeps moisture and bugs out of the untreated wood nearby. You don't leave cracks for water to get in or you pay big bucks for structural repairs.

Also, painting it would a) look better/more consistent on that house and b) keep the carpenter bees from eating that new wood like they are starting to.

We have discovered that the fascia boards were treated ones. The painting should be done, considering all the above information.

**Minute #4:** Meeting approved contracting with Rogelio Gómez of Alpha Pro Painting to prime, paint, and caulk the fascia, along with a few other small areas that need protection.

**Finance:** Satchel Loftis

It appears that our budget compares well with 2022 and 2023, in terms of how much of the budget has been met and how much is expected in the second six months of the year. An appeal will go out later in the year to encourage Friends to contribute. A Friend asked for a "list" of the reserve funds totals.

See Attachments for full reports. The reserve fund list will be included.

**Minute #5:** Meeting accepted the Finance Reports with thanks to Satchel for clarity and helpful information.

**Ministry & Council:** Robin Wells

**Facility Rental and Videography for Bob Smith's Memorial**

Last month M&C came to Business Meeting with a request for payment of the facility rental at the Weaverville Community Center. The rental came to \$525.00, rather than \$500.00 as previously reported. Meeting approved the payment of \$500.00 and M&C agreed to look into which reserve fund it could come out of. We would like to propose that it come out of the Evey Frerotte bequest fund.

**Minute #5:** Meeting approved transferring \$525.00 from the Evey Frerotte Bequest Fund to Bob Smith's Memorial Fund to cover facility rental costs.

We are also seeking help with payment for the videography at the memorial. The videographer was Raf Adams of Aisha Adams Media. The total cost was \$1,250 with a \$250 discount given

to the Meeting, meaning that we will pay Raf \$1000. We have had \$750 promised from Friends in the Meeting and are seeking an additional \$250 for this expense. Do we have other Friends that would consider coming forward to help with this expense or is there another way we would like to proceed?

**Minute #6:** Friends agreed to accept individual contributions earmarked for Bob Smith Memorial Fund to cover the fee for the videographer.

**Miscellaneous:**

**International Day of Peace:** Bob Lackey

The International Day of Peace in Western NC is September 21, 2024. The theme this year is: *Cultivating a Culture of Peace*. We will meet at 11:00 am at Land of the Sky UCC located at 15 Overbrook Pl, Asheville, NC 28805 just off of Tunnel Road. Veterans for Peace has completed the Proclamation, WNC People's Declaration of Peace 2024 as follows:

**WNC People's Declaration of Peace 2024**

Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 declared that September 21 shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace, and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples and strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict, and

Whereas, the UN General Assembly also declared that this day should be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day, and

Whereas, the UN General Assembly invites regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and

Whereas, our earth has been devastated and desecrated from endless wars and acts of violence, not only harming and killing humans, but also polluting the earth's environment, which adversely affects all species of plants and animals, and

Whereas, until nuclear weapons are abolished, our planet faces an existential threat from these weapons, and

Whereas, while injustice exists anywhere on our planet, we cannot achieve a just and lasting peace on our planet, and

Whereas, local efforts in Western North Carolina such as reparations, and addressing the needs of the unhoused, are important to achieving peace with justice in our local community, and

Whereas, citizens have a duty to assemble, to discuss, and to make their desires for global and local peace with justice known to their elected leaders:

Therefore Be It Resolved that [insert name of public body here] proclaims September 21, 2024 as International Day of Peace in [Asheville or Buncombe County] and encourages all residents to engage in activities that promote peace with justice in our local community and to think globally and act locally.

AFM has the opportunity to be a signatory to this declaration. Do we wish to be a signatory?.

**Minute #7:** Meeting approved the signing of the **WNC People's Declaration of Peace 2024.**

### **Discussion on COVID Concerns**

- Communication Protocol (See above)
- Access to Updated AFM Directory-

Robin will assist Ellie Cox with the updates and help us develop how to continue the process.

### **Consideration of adding a Meeting YouTube channel?**

We would like to add the recording of Bob's Memorial so it will be widely available.

We will consider the best way to compress and use the file, given its size. Along with Raf Adams, Steve Livingston and Mike Eddy will confer regarding this matter.

The Meeting closed at 1:30 pm with silent worship until the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Eighth Day, Ninth Month, 2024.

### **Attachments**

[06-30-2024 Operating Activity](#)

[2024-06 Fund Balances](#)

[Reparations Fund](#)

[Indigenous Peoples Fund](#)