

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting Minutes
Seventh Month 27, 2025
DRAFT

Present in the Meetinghouse: Joelle Swaggert O'Brien, Interim Clerk; Robin Wells, Recording Clerk; Scotty Utz, Chrissy Brierley, Ellie Cox, Katherine Kowal, Barbara Esther, Sarah Jane Thomas, Jim Cavener, Adrienne Weir, Pat Johnson, Barbara Burke, Suzanne Junkin-Friedrichs, Bobby Carter, Nick Mimken, Howard Brodt, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard

Present via Zoom: Mike Eddy, Beth Eddy, Margaret Farmer

The meeting will open with Silent Worship.

Out of the silence, the Interim Clerk shared the poem "Fiddler Jones" from Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*

The earth keeps some vibration going
There in your heart, and that is you.
And if people find you can fiddle,
Why, fiddle you must, for all your life.
What do you see, a harvest of clover?
Or a meadow to walk through to the river?
The wind's in the corn; you rub your hands
For beeves hereafter ready for market;
Or else you hear the rustle of skirts
Like the girls when dancing at Little Grove
To Cooney Potter a pillar of dust
Or whirling leaves meant ruinous drought;
They looked to me like Red-Head Sammy,
Stepping it off, to "Toor-a-Loor."
How could I till my forty acres
Not to speak of getting more,
With a medley of horns, bassoons and piccolos
Stirring in my head by crows and robins
And the creak of a wind-mill—only these?
And I never started to plow in my life
That someone did not stop in the road
And take me away to some dance or picnic.
I ended up with forty acres;
I ended up with a broken fiddle—
And a broken laugh, and a thousand memories,
And not a single regret.

Presentation of the Agenda

Minute #1: The agenda was accepted.

Announcements

- **Saturday, August 2**

The *Alliance for Beyond Land Acknowledgement* invites you to our general membership meeting and program from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 789 Merrimon Ave. The meeting is free and snacks will be served. The meeting includes updates on the Alliance's progress: our new logo, our website, our work toward non-profit status, and upcoming events. The program also includes showing of *The Great Cherokee Grandmother*, a short film by Anthony Sneed (EBCI), nephew of former Principal Chief, Richard Sneed. The film spoofs the ubiquitous narrative advanced by European-Americans to lay claim to nonexistent Native ancestry. **The meeting will be hybrid. The link will be in the Digest. Contact Pat Johnson by email to RSVP by August 1st, if you would like to attend on Zoom.**

Ad Hoc Furnace Committee Report (with input from the Finance Committee)–Pat

The Ad Hoc Furnace Committee met virtually on 07/22/2025 with all members present. We were also blessed with the presence of Doug Lane, our hard working handyman. We're so grateful that Mike Eddy, Adrienne Weir, Rusty Maynard, Howard Brodt, Pat Johnson and Doug Lane gave their time, energy and expertise in helping discern and make recommendations for our new heating system.

This is a big project involving some issues so we revisited some of our previous recommendations. We do not have perfect solutions. Some of us would like to use the existing ductwork and install a heat pump to give heat to the same places our old furnace provided. However, we strongly suspect that we have asbestos in our basement even though Jake Mills of Ledbetter Heating & Cooling said "there is no asbestos since the joints on the ducting has non-asbestos mastic." We can't know for sure until we have a professional take samples and test them. That's expensive and there would be additional expense to encapsulate or abate any asbestos found to be present. Some of us don't want to do anything with the ductwork unless we at least encapsulate them by spraying.

Some of us point out that mini-splits are more efficient and if we install them, we wouldn't have to disturb the ductwork and the possible asbestos wouldn't be a problem. So some of us would like to install mini-splits. Doug in particular looks forward to the day when the furnace and ductwork are gone since it's very difficult to work in that small space with all that equipment in place. Some of us are not sure the open layout of our rooms would work well with mini-splits since they are designed to heat a zoned area. They might be overworked trying to heat the whole open area.

All of us agree that our highest priority right now is to have our new system installed and working come fall and cold weather. That means the work needs to start in August and it also means we really don't have time to thoroughly investigate and discern the best way to deal with the possible asbestos. We also agree that we don't want to forget about the asbestos and leave it to our children to deal with 10 or more years down the road.

Based on these agreements, we respectfully offer the following recommendations:

- ❖ Install mini-splits in the library and the two west end rooms upstairs and an outside condenser;
- ❖ As soon as possible take care of possible asbestos in the whole basement, not just the west side;
- ❖ Contract with Coles Heating and Cooling to provide the HVAC system for \$11,745.00.

We recommend Coles because their proposal includes 50% stronger heating and they recommended our approved electrician, David Domske having worked with him previously.

With the HVAC costs of \$11,745 and the electrical upgrade cost of \$6,825.00 our new recommended system will cost \$18,570.00. Our previous estimated cost with the heat pump (using the ductwork) was about \$16,000.00. However, we would have additional costs to deal with the possible asbestos if we choose to install a heat pump. So the total costs for the two systems are about equal.

Coles offered a line cover for the wire at the back of the house for \$1,733.00. The committee considered not accepting this as it seemed cosmetic. Then we got the following comment from Doug Lane: Also I DO recommend the line cover. It gives a hard surface to protect the line set. And especially the insulation around them from deterioration. I am having this problem since ours (at Doug's home)

was done before covers were a common thing, and will need to replace the insulation sometime in the near future.

The committee accepts Doug's recommendation and recommends that we add the line cover with an additional expense of \$1,733.00 which means our total investment will be \$20,303.00.

We previously approved financing the new heating system from the following restricted funds:

| | Previously Approved Use for New System | Remaining Fund Balance |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| → Building Fund | \$ 6,000.00 | \$1,720.27 |
| → H & G Emergency Fund | \$ 2,000.00 | \$2,499.50 |
| → MH Improvement Fund | \$ 6,000.00 | \$2,554.12 |
| → Evey Frerotte Bequest | <u>\$ 2,000.00</u> | \$7,475.00 |
| → Total | \$16,000.00 | |

We have several options to cover the additional expense:

- ❖ Two individuals have volunteered to donate \$2,000.00 to help cover this expense;
- ❖ Take the additional expense from a combination of the MH Improvement fund and the Evey Frerotte Bequest; (Note: Our young people are counting on using the Evey Frerotte Bequest for their playground expenses.)
- ❖ Set up a capital expense fund where individuals can donate to cover this expense.

We have previously approved \$16,000.00 of this expense from our Restricted Funds. And we have \$2,000.00 in pledged donations. Now we must decide how to cover the remaining \$2,303.00.

Thank you for your careful discernment for the way forward on our new heating system.

Discussion: Friends had questions about the proposed system and the committee explained how mini-splits work. Three rooms (the downstairs library and two rooms upstairs at the west side of the building) will each have their own unit that

will heat and cool directly from the unit without using ductwork. One Friend asked if the minisplits help with our freezing pipes in the winter. Answer: It was explained that closing off the opening to the crawl space will help with the freezing pipe.

One Friend shared that he has used Cole's and is very pleased with them. He suggests we move forward with this project.

One Friend asked about our recently installed gas furnace. How long will it last? Likely another thirty years or more. The Friend also suggested that we go ahead and test the suspected asbestos on the pipes in the near future.

The clerk suggested that House and Grounds consider when to test the ductwork for asbestos and report back to business meeting. There was also a request to consider cooling for the Meetingroom.

Note for Doug, our Handyman: Please make sure the plate is across the opening in the winter and please determine if the pipes will need more insulation.

NOTE: When the electrical upgrade happens, we will be without power for three days. We will need to notify our renters and we will need to put the items in the fridge on ice.

Who will sign the contract for this work? We will have our board of directors sign the contract.

Minute #2: The meeting approved an electrical upgrade and the installation of mini-splits in the library, the two west-end rooms upstairs, an outside condenser and a line cover under contract with Coles Heating and Cooling and DCD Electric Inc. for an estimated cost of \$20,303.

Minute #3: The meeting approves that the funds for this be drawn from

Building Fund - \$6k

House & Grounds Emergency Fund - \$2k

Meetinghouse Improvement Fund - \$6k

Evey Frerotte Bequest - \$2k

We will set up a Heating Upgrade Reserve Fund to accept donations to total \$4,000. We have had \$2,000 donated already. Friends may earmark donations to this fund.

Minute #4: The Meeting would like to minute its thanks to the Ad Hoc Furnace Committee, Finance Committee, and Doug Lane for their hard work on our behalf.

The Meeting closed with silent worship and is set to reconvene as way opens for our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Eighth Month 10, 2025.