Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting Minutes
Eleventh Month, Eighth Day 2026
DRAFT

Present in the Meetinghouse: Interim Clerk: Pat Johnson, Interim Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther, Valerie Hogstrom, Kitti Reynolds, Adrianne Weir, Satchel Loftis, Bobby Carter, Suzanne Freidrichs, Tim Burgess, Robin Wells, and Rylin Hansen

Present via Zoom: David Chandler, Gita Larson, Barbara Burke, Susan Ohler, Ellie Cox, Katherine Kowal

The meeting opened at 12:07 with a period of silent worship.

Out of the silence, the Interim Clerk read two quotes from *Restore the Timeline; Learning to Live in the 200-Year Present* by S.E.W.Smith, Friends Journal, October 2026; p. 7-8.

If this is - as I wrote in my moment of despair - us living in the worst possible timeline, then we can make "Restore the Timeline" a mantra, a motto, a call to action. What we do today is the foundational task for restoration of a better tomorrow.

How liberating that simple shift of consciousness becomes! Restoration can be as simple as it is profound. Everyone who has ever pruned a forgotten fruit tree to spur its growth understands the power of restoration.

Agenda Review

Minute #1: Meeting accepted the agenda with a change in order for the report of the Board.

Approval of 10th Month Minutes

Minute #2: The 10th Month Minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- Wish you had some quiet worship time in the middle of the week? We have a midweek worship meeting each Wednesday from 4-6:00 pm at the Asheville Friends Meetinghouse. Drop in as your schedule allows, anytime during 4-6:00 pm.
- On November 15th at rise of meeting, we will continue our exploration of a Pendle Hill pamphlet, Four Doors to Meeting for Worship by Willliam Tabor, with The Third Door: The Door Within and The Fourth Door: The Door Beyond. We hope you will join us.
- On December 6th we will have our annual multigenerational Simple Gifts craft time together at rise of meeting. We are looking for people to lead simple crafts in the Meetingroom or on the porch. The Religious Education Committee can help with the cost of materials, if desired. See Robin Wells to learn more. Sign up on the circulating clipboard at rise of meeting.
- M&C approved not having a Business Meeting in December so that our special year-end programs can be scheduled throughout the month. A called meeting can be arranged if something urgent arises.
- On January 31st at rise of meeting, we will have an information session about conscientious objection for young people and their support communities. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the clipboard being passed around so we have enough materials for everyone.
- The Metropolitan Sewer District of Buncombe County will be working on our sewer connection at the road during the week of November 9-13. This should not affect early morning or evening use of the Meetinghouse. Midafternoon users could consider not flushing toilets if workers are present at the road.
- Committees are asked to submit their 2027 budget requests to the Finance Committee by November 30th.
- Robin Wells will be attending the Warren Wilson meeting/information session regarding anticipated Conscientious Objector changes.

AFM Board of Directors - Satchel Loftis

2026 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Asheville Friends Meeting requests that the minutes of its 2026 annual meeting be incorporated into November's Business meeting minutes.

The Annual Meeting of the AFM Board of Directors took place by Zoom on 10/26/26 at 4:20pm.

Present were Board members Ellen Carr (Member of the Board as Assistant Treasurer of Meeting), Satchel Loftis (Member of the Board ex officio as Treasurer of Meeting), Kitti Reynolds (Member of the Board), and Pat Johnson (Member of the Board), which constituted a quorum.

Pat Johnson will serve as Chairperson in lieu of the clerk since the Meeting does not currently have one, and Ellen Carr will serve as Secretary.

Pat Johnson, Ellen Carr, Satchel Loftis, Kitti Reynolds, and Beth Eddy are signatories for the Self Help Credit Union accounts.

We request that the minutes of this meeting be recorded in the Minutes of Business Meeting.
There being no other new business, the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors concluded at 4:24pm.

The Bylaws specify, “The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the office of the Friends Meeting on the second Sunday of October of each year.” The 2027 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 2027, date and time TBD.

Respectfully Submitted, Ellen Carr, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Reference Asheville_Friends_Meeting_Bylaws_updated_2006.08.13
SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The Officers of the Board shall be a Chairperson, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary. The Treasurer of Asheville Friends Meeting shall serve ex officio as the Treasurer of the Board. The Assistant Treasurer of Asheville Friends Meeting shall serve ex officio as the Assistant Treasurer of the Board. The Chairperson and Secretary shall be elected by the Directors. Officers of the Board shall be officers of the Corporation.
SECTION 2. FUNCTION. The business and property of the Friends Meeting shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors.
SECTION 3. TERM. The Board of Directors shall be self-perpetuating, being chosen by consensus of the existing Board. The Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of the Meeting

shall be included as members. This selection shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Board, subject to the approval of the Monthly Meeting for Business.
SECTION 4. NUMBER. The number of Directors of the Board shall be a minimum of five.
SECTION 5. RESIGNATION. Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors.
SECTION 6. VACANCIES. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors, subject to approval at the following Monthly Meeting for Business

Minute 3: We accepted the report from the Board, with thanks.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds Reserve Fund Report–Ministry & Counsel, Finance, and House Grounds Committees - Robin Wells & Tim Burgess

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to our Building and Grounds Reserve Fund. Every dollar counts! In addition to the back stair work being completed, we have now completed a portion of the rewiring in the Meetinghouse. Work was paused due to the discovery of vermiculite insulation in the attic. Vermiculite is known to contain asbestos in some situations, so the electrician stopped work. We have reached out to a specialist to get it tested and may need to remove and replace all of the insulation in the attic.

We have also had portions of our sewer line scoped by TP Howard with an official from County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) present. It was discovered that there is damage to the pipe on the MSD portion (in the road) and they will repair it next week. Unfortunately, we found that the sewer pipe on our property is also crushed and is showing a number of roots invading it. Our sewer line is made of terracotta and cast iron, which is outdated and easy to break. The new pipe will be deeper and made of more appropriate materials. The routing of the line may present some additional complications. It has been recommended that we replace the pipe from the Meetinghouse to the street before we begin the driveway project. We are getting an estimate from TP Howard in the coming week.

Finance Committee - Satchel Loftis

The Finance Committee considered PEJA's request to create a separate restricted fund for Raw Tools and to establish an automatic annual transfer from the General Fund to Raw Tools. The Finance Committee approved this request and is asking Meeting to discern the amount of the annual dollar transfer as well as approving the creation of this new restricted Fund. (Last year we donated $500.00 from the Community Support Fund.)
Raw Tools intends to continue having an event in the Asheville area annually as long as the community at large supports this work. The concerns around gun disposal and gun violence are broad in the country.

Minute #3: Meeting approved creating a Raw Tools restricted fund with an automatic annual transfer (amount to be determined) to the fund from the General fund.

The Finance Committee reviewed and approved Adrianne Weir's suggestion to incorporate the language below into the Meetinghouse Use Guidelines (first paragraph):

As stewards of our Meetinghouse, we seek to open our doors to the wider neighborhood and to support activities that harmonize with Friends' testimonies. To ensure the physical care and sustainability of our space, the Meeting charges a flat hourly contribution toward utilities and maintenance. We welcome both not-for-profit organizations and independent community leaders. While organizers may gather reasonable registration fees to recover their costs or compensate instructors, the Meetinghouse may not be used as a commercial retail storefront. For sanctioned events such as community art exhibitions, any financial transactions must occur directly between the individual attender and the organizer, leaving the Meeting free of financial involvement.

We ask the Meeting to approve adding this paragraph to our rental guidelines.

Minute #4: Meeting approved adding this wording to our Meetinghouse Use Guidelines.

<u>2027 Budget Preparation</u>

It's time to begin preparing our 2027 budget which we'll hopefully approve in Jan. This is the third year for our locked-in insurance rates so we'll see an increase next year. Southern Mutual will conduct an inspection & then give us our new rates. Please submit committee budget requests to the Finance Committee. (Satchel Loftis, Ellen Carr, Kitti Reynolds. Beth Eddy or Pat Johnson)

Finance Report - Satchel Loftis (see attached report)
While it appears that we have enough money to comply with our budget, we are anticipating about $9,000 in expenditures during the rest of the year (even though at present we appear to have a surplus). Our outreach spending generally occurs at the end of the year.
Our Meetinghouse expenses comprise a good portion of our income.

2026 - 10-31 Operating Report

Minute #5: Meeting accepted the Finance Report with thanks to Satchel for the updates and a thorough report.

The Business Meeting closed at 12:50 with a period of silent worship to meet again as way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Tenth Day, First Month, 2027.