

Scarsdale Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
11 July 2010

The meeting began with a period of worship, out of which the clerk read Query #3 from New York Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*:

Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?

Those present were Bowen Alpern, Carol Holmes, Bryan Kennedy, Dorothea Izzo, Eunice Laughlin, Matthew Scanlon, Gallia Taranto, Norma Ellis, Nancy Stix, Mary Eagleson, clerk, and Virginia Blanford, recording clerk.

2010.7.1. Bryan Kennedy reported for the **Committee on Building and Grounds**.

1. Kristy Vant was selected clerk of this committee, which has met several times over the past few weeks as there are pressing issues that have needed our attention.

2. A roofing company was called in to look at what we thought was a simple issue of replacing a section of shingles. Unfortunately, it looks like we actually need to replace the whole roof above the meeting room and library (the roof over the classroom wing appears to be fine). We were given a very rough estimate of \$25,000 to remove the existing 3 layers of shingles (the legal limit is actually 2 layers) and replace them with a choice of shingles with varying longevity. Buildings and Grounds will, of course, get a more exact estimate from this company and also a second estimate from a different company in order to compare pricing, etc. This \$25,000 does NOT include new gutters which we also strongly recommend. We feel that it would be best to do this work during the summer, if at all possible, as this will cause the least amount of inconvenience to the nursery school. In addition, the chimneys need evaluation.

3. In our obligation and desire to care for property grounds, we recognize that there are urgent tree issues that need to be taken care of by a professional in order to create a safe environment as well as preserving the health and beauty of our Meeting grounds. We have met with one tree company who walked through the property addressing the four issues of greatest concern.

1. removal of dead ash at west tip of the property,
2. pruning of the ash to the left of the entrance,
3. pruning of the oak to the right of the entrance and,
4. pruning the hemlocks on the north side of the property.

He strongly suggested fertilizing the ash and oak as well and added that into his estimate of \$3,700. He did suggest that we consider removing the oak and replacing it with a smaller tree (dogwood, weeping cherry) as is it questionable as to whether the oak will thrive.

Please note that the arborist pointed out that our hemlocks have wooly adelgid and will die if not treated! He gave us a referral to a company that deals with this. We do not have an estimate at this time but he stressed that this must be taken care of immediately!

There were other tree concerns that he will write up for us and will then be discussed in our next Building and Grounds meeting. These may require additional funding.

4. Building and Grounds would like to purchase a tool shed, around 6'X8', to house garden tools and the lawn mower. We have considered the possibility of placing it on the upper level behind the toy shed. The estimated cost is \$700-\$2,000 depending on building materials etc. plus the cost of preparing a platform to place it on.

5. Once we have the shed in place Building and Grounds would like to purchase a lightweight lawnmower. The estimated cost is \$250-\$400.

6. Building and Grounds would like to present the following possible dates for Fall clean-up days: Sunday, Oct. 3 (with a rain date of Oct. 17) for window cleaning etc. and Sunday, Oct 24 and Sunday, Nov. 14 for leaves.

We bring this report to Business Meeting with a request for surplus funds over and above the annual Building and Grounds budget in order to meet these expenses should the Meeting agree to move forward with this work.

One Friend noted that tree work can sometimes be done more cheaply in winter. A Friend noted that the Finance Committee was tentatively planning a threshing session on the Vickrey bequest on October 3. Friends are invited to recommend both roofers and tree companies to the committee for the purpose of gathering additional estimates.

The normal process for deciding on how to fund this work was laid out: Building and Grounds would gather competitive estimates for the needed work; Finance would review the estimates and offer a recommendation for how funding might be allocated. However, the Clerk noted that some portion of these expenses needs to be undertaken immediately and completed before the end of the summer.

The committee on Building and Grounds was instructed to gather additional estimates for all the recommended work. The Meeting approved the allocation of funds for the roof replacement, gutter replacement, and hemlock treatment up to but not exceeding \$35,000, with the understanding that the Finance committee will decide where these funds will be drawn from. If additional tree work can be done within the \$35,000 cap, then this work is also approved.

2. Dorothea Izzo reported for the **Library Committee**.

The library committee currently has several items on the agenda for consideration. These include defining our presence on the Scarsdale Friends Website where we have been promised a page. Also, we have been developing a "What Books Inspire You" program to get a feel for what

Friends like to read. We have a drop box and cards to be filled out, and we will soon be asking Friends for their input. We also are developing a digital archive using General Public License software which is free. Finally, we are working on a solution for new shelving.

The meeting accepted the report.

3. The clerk announced that the retreat planning committee has set dates of September 24-26 for the fall retreat at Powell House.

4. Gallia Taranto reported for the **Committee on Peace and Social Concerns**.

1. The committee declined, because of lack of advance notice, to host a meeting at which speakers would report on Alternatives to Violence projects undertaken in Latin America; this meeting will be held instead at Purchase Meeting on Tuesday evening, July 13, with a potluck at 6:00 and presentation at 7:00.

2. The fundraiser dinner for gifts for residents of homeless shelters has been postponed to Saturday, November 6.

The meeting accepted the report.

5. The clerk read a report submitted by the **Committee on Religious Education**.

Elizabeth Schutt, David Heston and Carolyn Andrews met on July 4th and cleared one of the cabinets in the hall that had some books of ours; this cabinet can now be used for nursery school. We also have some tentative times for Religious Education meetings and a partial schedule for coverage this summer.

The meeting accepted the report.

6. Other business.

One Friend asked if the Singing and Sharing pre-meeting sessions had ended and was assured that, although these sessions had been halted for the summer, the committee on Ministry and Counsel would consider restarting them again in the fall.

Members of the meeting expressed concern about the lack of a volunteer host meeting for the November Quarterly Meeting. The meeting encouraged the Clerk of Quarterly Meeting to pursue a venue for the November meeting, with the understanding that Scarsdale Meeting is reluctant to host for several reasons (the fact that we hosted in May, the absence of representatives from Religious Education to speak to the issue of youth programs; and the decision to do our large fundraiser the night before) but that Scarsdale Meeting would be willing to reconsider this if needed.

The meeting closed with a period of worship, out of which the clerk read Query #2 from New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice:

Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be on Sunday, September 12, 2010, at rise of meeting.

Virginia Blanford, Recording Clerk
Mary Eagleson, Clerk