

Scarsdale Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
7 September 2007

The meeting began with a period of worship, out of which the clerk read Advice #7 from *New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*.

“Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of misery and suffering. They are urged to support efforts to overcome racial, social, economic, and educational discrimination; to bear testimony against all forms of oppression; to exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives; and to work for the abolition of the death penalty.”

Those present were Caroline Andrews, Eunice Laughlin, Anne Wright, Robert Lohaus, Matthew Scanlon, Alice Clague, Norma Ellis, Mary Eagleson, Harriet Ross, John Randall, John Bryant, Elin Waring, Thomas Abernathy, William Seltzer (clerk), and Virginia Blanford (recording clerk).

- (1.) The report of the **Nominating Committee** was presented. The nominating committee continues its search for a member to fill the vacancy in Clearness and Counsel, and it has begun looking for two additional individuals for Advancement.

The committee offers the following action item: The nominating committee recommends that **Matthew Scanlon** be appointed to the Finance Committee.

This recommendation was approved.

- (2.) Caroline Andrews reported for the committee on **Clearness and Counsel**. A Clearness Committee was appointed and met with **Ruth Bryan** to consider her application for membership. The Clearness Committee recommended that Ruth be accepted into membership in Scarsdale Friends Meeting and the committee on Clearness and Counsel supports this recommendation.

This recommendation was approved. A welcoming committee was appointed consisting of Norma Ellis, John Randall, and Alice Clague.

- (3.) Norma Ellis reported for the committee on **Ministry and Worship**.
1. Ministry and Worship will sponsor worship sharing at rise of meeting on Sept 23rd, 2007. The topic will be "How we listen and speak in meeting." Ministry and Worship will provide breakfast of coffee, bagels and fruit before meeting for worship at 11:00.

The Meeting agreed on the value of this worship sharing but requested that it be postponed to a later date because of the unavailability of William Seltzer as facilitator and the emergence of another event for September 23rd (see #3 below).

2. Ministry and Worship and Advancement plan to have informal discussions after meeting for worship on days when a message in meeting for worship or an afterthought seems to warrant further sharing. When it seems appropriate,

members of Ministry and Worship or Advancement will initiate such sessions in a corner of the social room during coffee hour, with the purpose of knitting newcomers into the meeting as well as deepening community within the meeting.

3. Ministry and Worship asks that the Meeting write a Letter of Introduction for Norma Ellis, for Kirsten Wood and for Anne Wright. They will travel to Jena, Louisiana to attend the sentencing of Mychal Bell, the first of the Jena Six to be tried. They will support the young men and their families and bear witness that justice should be equal for all and to the transformative power of love. They are doing the work of Scarsdale Monthly Meeting, and we ask that the Meeting pay their expenses, which are estimated to total no more than \$1200. Ministry and Worship supports their request for a committee to support their witness and hold them accountable.

The Meeting approved the writing of the Letters of Introduction, which the clerk will draft in consultation with Norma, Kirsten, and Anne. The Meeting also approved the payment of expenses for Norma, Kirsten, and Anne for this witness up to a total of \$1200.

The Meeting refers the request for a committee to support the witness of Norma, Kirsten, and Anne and to hold them accountable to the committee on Clearness and Counsel and asks that they appoint such a committee quickly.

The Meeting looks forward to hearing from Norma and Anne at rise of meeting on September 23rd, 2007. Caroline Andrews volunteered to arrange for child care during this report.

(4.) Mary Eagleson reported for the committee on **Building Renovations**.

The new hall storage units are nearly complete, and most of the items from the large store room and old hall cabinets have been transferred to them. In addition, the Monday Group has completed its move out of the small store room it used to occupy. Most of the garments have been given to appropriate recipients, and the few remaining items are now in the large store room (the former UNICEF room). The former Monday Group room is now available as a classroom for the teens.

Committee members have also been working to clear out and organize the remaining store room, in cooperation with members of M'Vakshe Derekh, Al Anon, the Building and Grounds Committee, Trustees and the Nursery School.

Our thanks to Olivia and Dan Hewitt for painting the hall of the classroom wing! The partition between the foyer and the classroom wing proper, which is indicated in the master plan drawings, has been built. This permits us to have a longer coat rack where the mail boxes used to be; the mail boxes will be moved into the office.

The decision about the exact specifications for the new doors before ordering them has required a good deal of research and checking with each other and Allen Ross during vacation times for many of us. For that reason, they will

not be ready for installation until later in the fall. However, this work will not interfere with nursery school operation.

All this activity has brought a positive new mood and energy to those of doing the work, and, we hope, in the Meeting as a whole. One expression of this is the thought that we might ask the Meeting to replace the rug in the foyer with a new one that fits the space. The committee would welcome comments on this idea.

The Renovations Committee has been busy preparing for the possible commencement of major renovations in 2008 or 2009, and arranging for several new doors as well as the installation of storage units in the education wing hall. We have failed to concentrate on fundraising, a matter that is now pressing upon us. Friends (attenders as well as members) who have not already been approached should expect to be called by a member of the Renovations Committee to make an appointment for a good conversation about support for the meeting and for the renovations.

Alice Clague offered the following financial report for the Renovations Committee:

Funds received for building renovations

During the fiscal year 2006/2007	\$12,874
Since July 1, 2007	\$ 4,400
Expected in Sept	\$ 30,000
Estimated total by end Sept	\$ 47,274

Pledges, as of 1 September 2007

2007	\$41,700
2008	\$16,800
2009	\$16,800
2010	\$12,400
2011	\$11,200
Total	\$ 98,900

The Meeting accepted the reports.

(5.) Eunice Laughlin reported for the **Monday Group**.

Eunice talked with Helen Angell about the history of the Monday Group, which has existed since the late 1940s, when its members were instrumental in gathering

support for building the Scarsdale meeting house. For many years, the group continued to meet regularly to collect and repair clothing, which was then donated to American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. Several years ago, AFSC stopped collecting clothing for a variety of reasons. The group continued to collect clothing and distribute it to Big Brothers and other appropriate organizations. However, in the last year or two, membership has dwindled to two, Eunice and Susan Weisfeld, and the function of the group has become less clear. As a result, Eunice requests that the Meeting approve the laying down of the Monday Group.

The Meeting accepted the report with appreciation for all that had been done and urged Eunice and Sue to prepare an article for the Newsletter recounting some of the history and accomplishments of the Monday Group.

- (6.) Matt Scanlon reported for the committee on **Advancement**.
1. Quakers in England have developed an outreach program called Quaker Quest. It has been very effective in advancement. Because of this success, FGC is looking for Meetings interested in launching pilot projects in America. Advancement recommends that the Meeting give consideration to being one of those pilot projects. Information will be distributed to the Meeting about Quaker Quest so that the Meeting can discuss it further.
 2. Advancement has requested that Ministry and Worship consider various ways of introducing newcomers to silent worship.
 3. We believe it would be helpful if the Meeting had support groups for Friends and attenders who were facing similar issues in their lives. We'll discuss this idea further with Clearness and Counsel.
 4. Based on the Buddhist Walk this coming Sunday, Wilton Meeting is suggesting that the Quarter consider sponsoring a walk from Meeting House to Meeting House within the Quarter with the focus "Iraq: An Exit Strategy" with a forum or town meeting at each Meeting House.

The Meeting accepted the report.

- (7.) Ginny Blanford reported for the **Social Committee**.
The Social Committee is delighted to be hosting the fall picnic on September 9 at rise of meeting for worship, to welcome newcomers to the Meeting and to welcome old F/friends back from summer. The picnic will include an update on the building renovations and will be followed by a presentation by Jun Yasuda, organizer of the Buddhist Peace Walk. The committee approves with gratitude the offer of Fred Hoffmann to remove the old green coffee cups from the meeting house and donate them to an appropriate organization. As always, volunteers to host social hour are sought for the remainder of the fall.

The Meeting accepted the report.

- (8.) Caroline Andrews reported for the **First Day School**.

1. Margie Hunter is planning to continue with helping with First Day School as a paid person. Her time is managed by Caroline Andrews with payment through a payroll process with the Nursery School. She is starting a full-time teacher position, so we hope she will be able to work with us as we have been very happy with her contribution to the First Day School. If there are questions about her coverage or other issues, please direct them to Cary Andrews.
2. Classes and teachers are set up for the upcoming year, and September 9 is the start of First Day School with the welcome back picnic.
3. We are working on the closets and bookshelves as part of the overall Meeting renovation process.

The Meeting accepted the report.

(9.) Other matters.

1. Matthew Scanlon presented information about the Buddhist Peace Walk.
2. One Friend asked if the Meeting intended to consider the question of Friends United Meeting. Friends felt this discussion might be raised within the Meeting after the discussion planned at Purchase Quarter on September 15.

The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be on Friday, October 12, at 7:00 PM, preceded by a pot luck dinner at 5:30 PM.

The meeting closed with a period of worship and out of the silence, at the request of a Friend, the clerk briefly spoke of his forthcoming surgery.

Virginia Blanford, recording clerk