

Woodstown Friends Meeting

Notes for Meeting for Business November 6, 2011

17 members present. Mike Ayars Clerk led the meeting.

Opening Worship:

Friends are reminded that the business of our Meeting is done in our Monthly Meeting for Business, which is usually held on the first Sunday of the month. Our committees take direction from the Monthly Meeting. If you have items or issues you would like to have addressed, either come to business meeting, or notify the clerk or the clerk of the Oversight Committee. Friends were reminded to please give Mike Ayars their email address, if they have not been receiving the meeting agenda.

Minutes of October: Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Mahon is away and although he sent a report, the Clerk was reluctant to interpret it.

Old Business:

Thanks for the wonderful Halloween Party. Apple dunking was a highlight and seeing so many generations of folks. Gail Scuderi did a popular activity of decorating sugar skulls. Photos are on our website. Great costumes! We had a lot of kids, and a number of people we don't see often. A fun time was had by all. Pictures are on the Meeting's web page. Unfortunately, later that night Mert Coles' hay wagon was set on fire and damaged before Reliance Fire Company could put it out. P&F is checking on our insurance coverage.

New Business:

There is a letter from Daniel Shimp regarding our possible hosting of a Community Concert Series. It was thought that program content, admission and our liabilities should be considered. We would be open to having concerts, as there is precedent for this. Mike will follow-up with the questions that Friends raised.

Committee Reports

Ten Thousand Villages:

Things are rolling along. Our merchandise arrives on **Tuesday, November 8, and we need some help to unload about 10 or 10:30 AM**. Set-up will be Wednesday, November 30. Toy set up our display in the Woodstown Public Library. The Junior Women's Club will help post flyers around town. We'll have more for others to post in their towns.

After an extended discussion, the clear sense of the Meeting is that we should cover our actual Ten Thousand Villages expenses including advertising and gas expenses from the proceeds of our sale.

Our advertising costs are about \$300. Our sales/proceeds generates about \$12,000. A cost of \$300 to generate \$12,000 of sales is pretty efficient. Since the meeting is running close to the bone and postponing expenses, it's reasonable that our sale should be cost-neutral to the Meeting. The Ten Thousand Villages folks allow us to keep 10% of the proceeds, but we don't need nearly that much. As our annual operating budgets come into better balance, perhaps in the future we may be able to resume covering the costs of this sale. Friends School had a clearness session about whether the craft sale was within the mission of their school. They ultimately decided that it was. But 10,000 Villages is a big business as well, we are one of their largest non-store sales. The products we sell have already been purchased from the artisans by the Ten Thousand Villages group. A suggestion was made that a bake sale at the 10,000 Villages could cover some of our costs. We have also received contributions in the past that were designated towards Ten Thousand Villages expenses.

Priscilla sent the following comment for consideration: *"I feel strongly that we should not take money from the proceeds of the sale. I may be in the minority for holding onto that opinion, but so be it. I also think that the way the question is presented at Business Meeting makes a huge difference. If people in Meeting understand the big picture, that the Meeting has thousands of dollars invested, from which we earn interest, but we are trying to live off our contributions from members, then yes, our intake is "bare bones." However, when we compare the financial situation of people in the Meeting to the artisans living in Somalia, Cambodia, India and Bangladesh, I think the artisans need, can use, and deserve every penny made from the sale.*

We had a front page photo and article last year in Today's Sunbeam. The paper usually includes another article and a letter to the editor, so I am not certain we need to spend the \$300 on publicity. If we get the posters distributed around Woodstown and surrounding towns, that is good publicity. I have in the past explained in the articles that all the money from the sale is returned to Ten Thousand Villages and the artisans. Please let me know what folks decide."

Shirley commented that she values Priscilla's point of view. She noted that it is difficult at times to assess how to best function, as there are too few models in the world around us.

Property & Finance:

Casey Palmer reported from the November 3rd meeting. There was a discussion about having a contract with the exterminator, rather than just having them in as needed. A contract is \$600. To just have termites exterminated is \$250. We have also had them in for ants and carpenter bees. Bats are still a concern, but they have migrated away for the winter. Jen Lenik says there are rats in the neighborhood. Hoffman also handles mice and rat extermination. Property and Finance should make a decision about this and come to meeting for business requesting funds. The sidewalk in front of the Meetinghouse is in need of repair. They will get more estimates for repairs. Neighbors have removed trees and fencing. Frank Lenik will see if boundary lines have been restored. Dead trees will be removed this fall by Charlie Haaf.

Annex Committee:

Marie Haaf reported that after discussion with the Annex Committee about the fee schedule for use

of Annex and kitchen, they feel that the usage fees should be increased. The fees have been the same for at least 10 years. Since the costs for electric and oil heat have gone up, also gas for the stoves, the fees should be reflected to help cover these increases. An increase for each category is in order.

- The amount for full use for non-members; \$250, partial use \$125.
- The amount for members for full use \$150, partial use \$75.
- Full use means using the electric, stoves, dishes, hot water and heat, refrigerators, freezer, dish linens and all of the amenities.
- Partial use means only counter space, electric, refrigerator, hot water and heat. An example is when a caterer is used and they bring their own tableware, dishes, etc.
- All other amenities will be included such as bathroom use (toilet paper and paper towels), dish detergent and the other cleaning products needed for maintenance of the annex, kitchen and bathrooms including floors.

A notice should be posted in the annex and on the web site so all will know the information.

The old fees were in place when Marian Pettit was clerk. She was encouraging more use of the building. Now, we are seeing a lot of usage and need to be current with today's expenses.

These projected fee increases would be still under what other churches and organizations in the area are charging. All agreed that these fee increases were appropriate, so they were approved.

Peace and Social Concerns:

Sam reported that they had met with Ann's Abbey. They also visited on Halloween and last Sunday. The committee is considering Christmas gifts for about 17 people at about \$15/per gift. They would like access to the committee's budget for Christmas gifts. Everyone thought that was good idea, and the the committee should consult the treasurer about their budget. Overall the relationship is better with the community there – they are not sitting on our porches and smoking any more. This is because most now understand that the Meetinghouse is a "church." Sam said Ann's Abbey facility is "dingy and not that pleasant." Last Sunday when the weather was so cold, there was no heat. The committee will put out donation box for toiletries which the Abbey housemates are in need of.

Peace Vigil is Friday November 11 at 5:30PM at the intersection of Rte 40 and Rte 45

Oversight:

The committee is planning for Thanksgiving. They will do refreshments after First Day meeting for worship. The Quaker Scholarship information will be passed on to Meeting members soon.

Salem Quarter:

Due to the loss of funding for the regional staff programs by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Salem Quarter finds it necessary to review the Coordinator's job description, the cost of the program, and our overall budget. Currently, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting provides about 18% of the total coordinator budget for the Quarter.

In order to serve the needs and priorities of the Monthly Meetings in the Quarter, the Steering Committee has developed the following queries. We recommend these be considered as group discussion in first day school class, over lunch, in business meeting, or wherever seems appropriate for your meeting. You may opt for discussion in more than one setting. You may choose to treat the queries as a survey, copied and distributed for anonymous competition by the individuals in the group. The Steering Committee intends to discuss the results at the next committee meeting in November so that budget recommendations may be made at December Quarterly Meeting.

There was a discussion about the Quarter and what it does collectively. Maybe this is an opportunity to re-evaluate this function and activities of the Quarter vis a vis its coordinator. Times have changed – so we really need to look at what we need. There may be a threshing on this. We have a good strong Quarter. One thing we will consider is reducing the PYM benevolence by 18% and putting that towards the Quarter.

Please take this opportunity to share your spiritual perspective as we review the priorities and needs of the Quarter.

Queries about Salem Quarterly Meeting Regional Staff Position

1. How has our Meeting benefited from having a regional staff person? *Friends noted that we are connected to other meetings and know what other meetings are doing. The Salem Coordinator is helpful in this regard.*
2. If money were no object, would we want to continue to have a fulltime regional staff position? *No discussion time.*
3. If the Quarter is to be responsible for all costs of the regional staff position, are we willing to attempt to find funding for either full or part time staffing? If yes:
4. What is our Meeting willing to contribute to supporting the regional staff position?
5. What continued or new responsibilities carried out by regional staff would most benefit our Meeting?

6. What job title does our Meeting prefer to use for our regional staff person's position?
7. Do you usually read all or at least some of the Salem Quarter News? If some, which sections do you read?

Minutes Committee reports Articles Columns Calendar

Few Few Many Many Some

8. How do you feel about the Salem Quarter News format? Indicate your preference.

Printed and mailed E-mailed Web-based

Friends liked having Salem Quarter News arrive in their mailbox where they can sit down and read it. Most felt that an email or web based version would not be read. A lot of stuff comes by email, hard to sort through it all. Not all have email.

9. Would you, as a meeting, be willing to contribute an additional \$1,000 per year for the newsletter to maintain the printed and mailed format?

No time to consider

Mike will forward this questionnaire to the local mailing list and ask for comments. There may be a called Quarterly Meeting to consider these questions. Friends also suggested that we could re-direct some of our covenant from PYM to Salem Quarter since PYM used covenant contributions from the meetings to support the Quarter Coordinator Program.

Closing worship 10:25AM

Submitted by Terry Ragone, Recording Clerk 11/7/11