

**Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)**  
**First Month, Sixth Day, 2019 (1/6/19)**

Present were: Martha B. (clerk), Phil C. & Ellen M. (recording clerks), Amy N., Jeanne W., Tom B., Jack L., Bill K., Karen C., Mary B., Peter M., Jennifer D-L, Nan & Sky E., Sheryl G., Kit H., Francis W., Sue P., Cairn K., Patty R., Wes J., Mary B., Elise A., Will C., Ruth S., Julie R., Mary D., Kim F., Margaret H., Jean C., Marcia O., Lee L., Phyllis S., and Bob B.

Out of the silence, our new clerk Martha B. welcomed Friends to MfB and wished everyone a happy new year. She admitted being humbled by the opportunity to serve as our new clerk and thanked everyone for their support so far – especially, our outgoing clerk Wes and the over 60 Friends who have signed up to work on our committees in the coming year.

Explaining her viewpoint as she begins her time as clerk, Martha noted that she comes from a Philadelphia Quaker family in which her mom & dad chose went to two separate meetings, one large and one small, giving the children a taste of Quaker diversity; finding work as an adult in Maryland, Martha also attended Stony Run & then briefly Adelphi meeting, but found herself at home in Annapolis and never left. Now, as Clerk, Martha is aware that AFM now may be near a time of transition with needs both to preserve our rich history and to consider to new opportunities.

(As one example of appreciating Friends' long-term contributions, many other Friends joined Martha to especially thank our departing clerk Wes for his pervasive and warm presence at innumerable committee hearings, annual events, and special occasions growing into the Clerk job over the years – not to mention Wes's baking of cheesecakes for our Quaker markets. Responding to these “almost posthumous” praise, Wes protested that he is not leaving and looks forward to Friends' ongoing support for his new roles as clerking Nominating Committee and Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis.)

Martha also noted her observation that our Meeting may benefit from taking steps to keep open communications between Friends at our early worship and those at our 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship (MfW); other Friends agreed & suggested passing notices via regular early participants.

Our clerk also invited Friends to share her appreciation of AFM's many holiday and winter activities including Thanksgiving dinner, Holiday Gift Giving, Caroling, the children's Christmas program (initiated by one child Penelope S. with support and active participation by other kids, parents and Friends), Christmas eve gathering and GAIN New Years' gathering.

Finally, our clerk also noted that her support committee suggested that, for her first MfB, she might invite Friends' suggestions: E.g., How to make MfB more welcoming for participants? Are there unspoken norms, developed over the years, that we could make more explicit? In response, Friends offered many comments; these included: 1) that committee clerks could relay specific invitations to individuals that they know might have particular concerns, thus, permitting some information-sharing and questions to come out in advance; 2A) that Friends should let attenders know that “MfB should not be considered optional” and that, perhaps, an explanation of MfB could be conveyed via conversation, handouts, Meeting for Learning or worship-sharing; 2B) another Friend, alternately, suggested that MfB should not be pushed on every attender as they may not be ready, but Meeting for Worship still may be important to them and; 3) that our explanations to new attenders should emphasize that MfB actually should be considered Meeting For Worship with attention business so our comments should be spiritually-centered comments. (This may be why Quakers make decisions so slowly but also so effectively.) Otherwise, new participants might imagine that MfB only relates to budgets and calendars. 4) Another Friend noted that such “outreach” to new attenders also requires more “in-reach” to be in touch with our own concerns and priorities. 5) Another noted that MfB may be the time when we become more aware of and plan for our functioning and work as a community, rather than just as individuals, recalling as George Fox said “rather than the way business is done by the people in the town.” 6) Very brief pamphlets on the table in our lobby, another Friend noted, in the past were a key to informing new attenders about the various aspects of Meeting and, after his first visit, encouraged him to return to Meeting.

Another Friend explained these pamphlets have disappeared while more up-to-date information is printed. 7) Friends properly should entrust our work to committees as much as possible, another suggested, and not “pick apart” committees’ recommendations. Someone once suggested that we should think of MfB as though Jesus was sitting beside us. She noted that Jesus might be quiet, even though listening carefully. 8) Anyone should be permitted to ask for silence during MfB to bring us back to our roots. 9) “Our process is central” to MfB, our new clerk noted. So we should ask ourselves, when we are doing our best process, what is happening? 10) We also hope that newcomers will attend and find MfB is an enjoyable and welcoming experience with Friendly-laughter as happened today in remembering Wes’s cheesecake. Our clerk thanked Friends for all these comments and noted that we will continue this conversation.

For Market Committee, Cairn reported as to our AFM’s Quaker Holiday Market on 12/1/18, that net proceeds from the main event and related sales totaled \$10,824.00, providing \$250 for our Young Friends to award through their own discernment process, \$3,965.25 each for QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) and Springbrook High School’s Free Store, and \$2,643.50 for AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project)—Uganda. Proceeds from the sale of handcrafted Afghan items went directly to Afghan Women’s Fund. Items not sold by the end of the day were leveraged through in-kind donations to a variety of causes. She offered many thanks to all who contributed to the success of Quaker Holiday Market 2018, in so many ways! And a special thank you to our dear member, Carol Brantley, and her sister, Fran, who saw to it that even with Carol’s passing, she was able to support the Quaker Markets she loved through an abundance of fine donations.

Cairn also urged Friends to mark our calendars now for Spring Quaker Market to be held on Saturday, 5/4/19.

For Stewardship and Finance Committee (S&F), Sue P. offered a Treasurer’s report, reporting that Friends’ 2018 donations met our goals, as did income from renters; committees’ spending generally was under budget. But, with some unanticipated, special expenses, we used several thousand dollars from our committee contingency funds. The net result is that we expect a 2018 year-end surplus of approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000. (The number is not precise because some year-end checks and bills still are arriving by mail.) At our December MfB, Friends agreed that we should apply the first \$4,100 of any surplus to raise our annual building fund contribution to the traditional \$10,000 level. So, we still will have a surplus of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000. Our S&F committee invites Friends to email suggestions to Phil C., as S&F clerk, for possible uses of this additional surplus. S&F will review all these suggestions, reporting them and a recommendation for decision by MfB in February.

For Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W), Ellen M. reported on new membership requests from Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar on 11/10/18 and, more recently, from Tom Baker.

A Clearness Committee met with Bethanne, who grew up in the Meeting, and with great joy recommends her adult membership. Friends joyfully approved. Other Friends noted that Bethanne’s daughter Isabelle would be considered a “familial Friend” on Meeting records. Another Friend suggested that we should offer to send Twin Cities’ Friends Meeting a sojourner’s letter on Bethanne’s behalf.

Ellen also noted that a Clearness Committee will be established for Tom in the near future.

Our clerk noted that the Chesapeake Children’s Museum has requested a rent-waiver to hold a National Education Association (NEA) - “Big Read” event on 2/3/19 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House. The book which is the focus of the program relates to Jack Johnson, who was the first black heavyweight boxing world champion in the early 1900s. Friends also expressed concerns about the dissonance between actions by Jack Johnson (including domestic violence and other violations of law) with Friends values; we noted that the group has invited Friends’ participation in the discussion of this book. MH&L recommended offering a no-cost rental for this event, consistent with our Meeting House use guidelines as purposes of the event are consistent with Quaker testimonies but the event isn’t cosponsored by Meeting. Friends approved a rent-free lease of the Meeting House, although we will not cosponsor it.

Our Clerk thanked everyone for their participation with the understanding that our Clerk and Recording Co-Clerks would finalize these minutes.

*-These minutes respectfully submitted – P. Caroom & Ellen McBride , Recording Clerks*