

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
2nd Month, 5th Day, 2023
(2/5/2023)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

Present at the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M., Martha B., Sheila M., Martha L., Nan E., Sky E., Wes J, Dot W. Kim F., Bonnie P., Jack H. and Marjorie K.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Cairn K., Mary B., Patty R., Minette C-S., Jean C., Ria H., Margaret C., Ann R., Jack L., Diane S., Marcia O., Larry M., and Mary D.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed and read the 2nd month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship.

- Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?
- Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

The clerk ended the silence to provide a brief review of the agenda.

The clerk then displayed and reviewed the AFM Anti-Racist queries for use in our discernment and additionally provided a reminder of best practices for the hybrid meeting and for Friends attending on Zoom:

1. For those on Zoom: the chat will not be monitored, and chat content will not be included in the minutes. Please do not use chat in an attempt to communicate or contribute to the discussion. Feedback will be welcomed later on whether or not the chat should simply be turned off during business meeting.
2. We will approve the minutes as we go along throughout the meeting.
3. Please wait to be called on to speak and state your name each time you speak.
4. For those present in the meetinghouse: please move to the speakers' spot every time you speak.

The clerk then shared additional messages from the clerking workshop on qualities of a

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business which include:

1. A core sense that we are One in the Spirit and are in this together
2. Careful listening, respectful inclusion of all, respectful speaking
3. An openness to the promptings of the Spirit and the movement and direction of spiritual energy
4. A willingness to change your mind
5. It does not include back-and-forth conversation between a few individuals, dismissing another person's perspective, or restating your position multiple times

Agenda:

1) Quaker Market Committee (QMC):

- a) On behalf of QMC, Cairn K. provided an update on the Quaker Holiday Market and gratitude and joy for all the contributions given as well as the gift of being able to take place in-person. A total of \$6,350 was raised for disbursement to causes, with the first \$250 allocated for Young Friends' discernment, and the remainder being split between each of the following four causes: HOPE for All, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Judith Nandikove's Global Ministries, and World Central Kitchen. Additional unsold items were given as in-kind donations to various recipients. Cairn also shared that the Quaker Spring Market will be held on May 6th.
- b) Due to recent events in Afghanistan, the Quaker Market Committee and Peace and Social Concerns are requesting permission to co-host a special fundraiser for the Afghan Women's Fund to tie in with International Women's day and include:
 - i) March 18th: cooking class on Saturday
 - ii) March 19th: informational potluck on SundayFunds would be collected by Cairn K. through April 2, with checks made out directly to the Afghan Women's Fund.
 - i) The full proposal with complete detail is attached. Friends shared in brief discussion, clarifying that this would be an independent effort by AFM, and all were in unity to approve this request.

2) Ministry and Worship (M&W):

- a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. shared an update on the annual spiritual state of the Meeting report for BYM. The committee is planning a worship sharing to prepare for the report during scheduled Meetings for Worship at 8:00 and 11:00 on March 19 to also include First Day School, if there are children in attendance. The committee proposes to present a draft of the report at Meeting for Worship on April 2nd as reports are due at the yearly meeting on April 15th.
 - i) Friends discussed the proposed scheduling, noting ideas and consideration to make sure all, and particularly new Friends, are informed about the process and to ensure we have adequate response.
- b) Ann R. also shared that the committee has been receiving requests for use of the 9:15-10:45 "Meeting for Learning" time slot for a variety of other activities not organized by the education committee and are asking Friends for guidance on whether education activities should take precedence for the 9:15-10:45 time slot or if

we should find a new time for education activities made available on Zoom.

- i) No solution or decision is requested at this time however Friends are asked to share input and observations over the coming month to help create a proposal for discernment for review at the March Meeting for Business.

3) Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC):

- a) On behalf of P&SC, Mary D. provided an update on the Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) group. ACT has disaffiliated with the IAF and formed their own group. ACT has asked member organizations to hold another series of listening sessions to identify concerns. Mary D. and Sheila M. are proposing that AFM hold a listening session with another member group so we can better understand others' concerns. Please reach out to Mary D. and Sheila M. with any input.
 - i) Friends requested and it was agreed that additional information will be provided via the announce list about the group and proposed request.
- b) Phil C. additionally provided an update about the seasonal Winter Relief effort at the Magothy Methodist Church. AFM will be responsible for covering March 20th – 27th, as well as providing a dinner on March 26th. Additional night shift chaperones are requested for the Winter Relief homeless shelter for that week and interested Friends are invited to email Phil C. to help out.

4) Communication Committee (CC):

- a) Ellen M. shared an update and context for a proposal to hire tech support to manage Owl during Meeting for Worship. At this time, the committee is not looking for a decision, but is requesting input and feedback from Friends in order to bring forward next month for review. Friends are invited to send input to communications@afm.org or ministry@afm.org.
 - i) Friends requested clarification on the proposed duties and responsibilities for this role, as well as brief discussion regarding financial and hiring practices for AFM. Additional reminder was provided about the various signup sheets on the AFM website to help volunteer to support AFM activities, as well as input to keep our AFM anti-racist queries in mind and a consideration to offer the opportunity within our community.

5) Meetinghouse & Lands (MH&L):

- a) Kim F., provided an update about all the recent accomplishments and improvements from the committee. Full report is attached and highlights include:
 - i) Reinstalled street-front sign
 - ii) Repaired fencing behind meetinghouse
 - iii) Repaired toilet in women's restroom
 - iv) Installed LED lighting in modules in office
 - v) Nan and Marcia de-cluttered the kitchen
 - vi) Updates on the:
 - 1) Wi-Fi enhancement project
 - 2) Care of the Meetinghouse by Committees on First Day
 - 3) Composting Upgrades
 - vii) Not- Quite- Spring Workday

- 1) A workday is proposed for Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 9am-12pm with lunch and good company provided. A variety of indoor and outdoor tasks are proposed, including some late winter/early spring gardening and a list of tasks will be developed. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the website, to get an idea of how many folks will be joining. Contact MH&L at meetinghouse@annapolisfriends.org with any questions.
- viii) Proposal to set up a Monthly Workday:
- 1) MH&L is proposing to set up a monthly workday on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9-11 am to accomplish on-going summer garden tasks and other tasks that arise. This has not been finalized, and the committee is looking for feedback from the community on availability and interest.

6) Remainder of 1st Month 2023 Minutes for approval:

- a) The remainder of the 1st month draft minutes were requested to be approved. Friends were in unity to approve the final draft.

7) Clerk's announcements:

The clerk shared the following announcements:

1. Meeting for Learning on best practices for AFM committees on February 26th
2. Clerks' meeting in April
3. We're planning a half day workshop in March to discuss and reflect on the Black History month resources sent out earlier this week. If you're interested in helping plan the event, please reach out to Martha B., Sheila M., Ellen M., or Karen C.

Closing

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

The recording clerk will send the meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review and provide feedback before the next MfW wAtB. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the end of the next MfW wAtB on March 5th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1st Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Afghan Women's Fund Fundraiser proposal
- February 2023 Meetinghouse & Lands report

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
1st Month, 8th Day, 2023
(1/8/2023)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

Present at the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M., Martha B., Martha L., Sylvia O., Joan M., Jack H., Barb T., Sheila M., Sky E., Nan E., Jenn D-M., Wes J., Dot W., Diane S., and Bonnie P.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Jean C., Margaret C., Minette C-S., Patty R., Ria H., Cairn K., and Will C.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed the 1st month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship and as we considered the queries.

- Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?
- Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

The clerk then displayed the AFM Anti-Racist queries for use in our discernment.

Agenda:

1) Introduction from the clerk (Karen C.):

The clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that Martha B., Ellen M., and Sheila M., agreed to serve on her support committee and invited anyone with suggestions or feedback to reach out to her or a member of her support committee, or put a note in the clerk's mailbox. The clerk then shared some highlights from a Pendle Hill clerking workshop that she, Ellen, and Sheila recently attended.

Highlights from Pendle Hill clerking workshop:

- Step up, step back.** Discernment benefits from multiple perspectives, since each of us may have a piece of the truth to share. If you rarely speak in Meeting, look for opportunities to ask a question or share your perspective. Paying attention to our "fair share" of time will allow space for greater participation, more fully bringing Spirit's voice into the room.
- Release concern to the group.** Once a Friend has spoken and "released"

something to the group, Friends should accept the perspective shared and resist the temptation to push back or argue against that perspective.

c) **Language matters.** How we speak to and about each other matters. We all have a role in keeping this a safe space.

i) Assume good intentions. We're all doing the best we can and are striving to do better. Martha used the phrase, bring a "generosity of interpretation".

ii) Make an effort to avoid overstating generalities or stereotypes, which can lead to people feeling excluded, not seen, or even offended.

iii) Accountability to each other: We're responsible for monitoring our own behavior and for caring for each other. Be kind toward Friend(s) missteps. It is the hope that we all feel empowered to speak up and identify hurtful language or behavior.

d) **Best practices**

i) Allow clerk to call on people. Be patient and understanding with the clerk's effort to call on people in the order they raised their hand, or call on everyone who wishes to speak. Ellen M. will help keep an eye out for raised hands.

ii) Identify yourself by name every time you speak; particularly important for a blended (hybrid) meeting.

iii) Business brought forth by committees needs to be seasoned in advance of coming to Meeting for Business; not a new point but in need of a reminder to report concerns or discussion topics beforehand to aid in holding a productive Meeting for Business and with our discernment.

3) Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC) 2023 plans and opportunities: a) On behalf of CREC, Martha L. and Sylvia O. shared an update about the 2023 CREC curriculum along with an invitation for Friends to volunteer to teach or assist. i) The 2023 CREC theme will be "loving, respecting, and caring for our earth" inspired by the book "Earthcare for Friends" which includes lesson topics, activities and other inspired messages for Young Friends. The curriculum is available online on the AFM website along with each month's theme [linked here.](#)

ii) Friends are invited and encouraged to sign up to volunteer to teach or assist at First Day School on the AFM website: [signup sheets](#)

iii) Friends shared in discussion, expressing support and joy for the proposed curriculum along with emphasizing the need for Friends to step up and volunteer to assist with leading lessons for CREC. Additionally, Friends discussed the details for volunteering and existing First Day School policies and practices.

4) Meetinghouse and Land (MH&L):

a) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F. shared a request for Friends to approve proposed work on the AFM meetinghouse WI-FI in order to keep up with the increased usage required to maintain hybrid meetings, as well as allowing coverage in all rooms, including the parking lot and terrace

- a) The committee is requesting to use the Capital Improvement Fund resources to complete the work.
 - b) Friends shared updates from contractor contacts as well as clarification to the existing issue and possible solutions and were in unity to fund the proposed work up to \$2000 from the Capital Improvement Fund.
- b) Kim F. also shared the following updates and announcements concerning the care of meetinghouse:
1. The “sharing center” at the meetinghouse: Friends were reminded to use the dedicated space to leave items for pre-arranged pickups, along with an additional reminder of the postage stamp collection which she will share more details about online.
 2. Selling items in the foyer: the committee proposed putting all the items in one dedicated place to consolidate the various items being sold.
 3. Missing bookshelf in the meetinghouse hall: Friends shared that it is possible that it was moved during the Quaker Market cleanup.
 4. Utilities settings in the meetinghouse: Kim F. shared updates about the parking lot timer and policies and requests for those using heating and thermostat settings in the meetinghouse. It was also noted that a space heater is available for quick heating needs.
 5. Meetinghouse cleaning maintenance: Historically, each committee was responsible for a cleanup on the First Days of a designated month and the committee asked the meeting if we should we return to that system or restructure that task.

Friends shared in discussion and support for both reverting to the previous process and restructuring the task process. The committee will take the feedback and share their final decision.

5) Ministry and Worship (M&W):

- a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. shared an update from the Faith & Practice committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) that they are in the process of revising our “Faith and Practice” publication and are seeking feedback from each Meeting. M&W will hold a worship sharing opportunity to consider and compile our input to the committee on Sunday, January 29 at 9:15-10:45 am.
 - i) Martha B. will be leading the discussion and shared some context for those unfamiliar with Faith & Practice, along with an overview and importance of the proposed review process. Friends who would like to offer input but are unable to attend this worship sharing should contact Martha B. at mbaer25@gmail.com for additional opportunities to provide this.
 - ii) Friends discussed this initiative, sharing where existing copies of “Faith and Practice” can be found as well as providing historical context and clarification on the existing versions, BYM’s process, and the updates being proposed.

6) 11th & 12th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed:

- a) The 11th and 12th month revised draft minutes were shared for review and approval.

Friends were in unity to approve both months' minutes.

Closing

The MfW wAtB closed without approving the last agenda items. The recording clerk will send the draft meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so Friends can review the final items and provide feedback. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the end of the next MfW wAtB on February 5th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 11th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- 12th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes

Afghan Women's Fund Fundraiser proposal

Request

In light of the Taliban's recent decision to ban women from attending universities and working at domestic and foreign NGO's, the Quaker Market Committee and Peace and Social Concerns are requesting permission to co-host a special fundraiser for the Afghan Women's Fund. The fundraiser would consist of a cooking class on Saturday, March 18, and an informational potluck on Sunday, March 19. Funds would be collected by Cairn K. through April 2, with checks made out directly to the Afghan Women's Fund.

Cooking Class

- Fahima Gaheez, Director of the Afghan Women's Fund, would hold a cooking class for approximately 6 people at the meetinghouse.
- Participants would learn how to make a few dishes such as daal, an Afghan rice dish, and chai.
- Participants would pitch in to purchase the more common ingredients; Fahima would provide the specialty ingredients.
- The class would prepare enough food to sample some that day, with enough left over to help support the potluck the next day.

Potluck

- The potluck would take place after the 11 am Meeting for Worship.
- Friends would be invited to supplement the cooking class dishes with Afghan or Middle Eastern dishes of their own.
- Towards the end of the potluck, Fahima would present an educational component lasting about 20 minutes. Fahima would also bring pashminas to offer for sale.

Donations

- Checks would be made out to the Afghan Women's Fund.
- A basket would be available **at the cooking class** and potluck for free-will donations.
- Donations also could be sent to AFM or put in the Quaker Market mailbox.
- Cairn Krafft would collect all funds. After April 2, she would convert any cash to a check, and mail all checks to the Afghan Women's Fund.

Current focus of Afghan Women's Fund

- The Afghan Women's Fund is working with partners on the ground to create and distribute high school curricula on flash drives, so that more girls will have access to education beyond the 6th grade, in their own homes.
- The Afghan Women's Fund also is providing school supplies and partial teacher salaries where needed at the elementary schools they helped build.

Proposed Dates

- March 18-19, to tie in with International Women's Day, also in March.

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee Report to MfB - February 5, 2023

Kim Finch and Jeanne Ward, Co-Clerks

Accomplishments

- Reinstalled street-front sign
- Repaired fencing behind meetinghouse
- Repaired toilet in women's restroom
- Installed LED lighting in modules in office.
- Nan and Marcia de-cluttered the kitchen (Thank you!).

Update on Wi-Fi Enhancement Project: Phase 1 Completed and being tested. Strength of signal and range now includes the entire MH, rear terrace, and partial coverage of the front parking lot. We are requesting feedback from our OWL operators about how well the system is working for hybrid meetings.

Update on Care of the Meetinghouse by Committees on First Day: Based on discussion and input received at the January MfB, MHL is proposing the following hybrid approach.

1. Committee Care of the Meetinghouse on First Days will continue to be assigned on a rotating monthly basis throughout the year.
2. A copy of the Care of the Meetinghouse list of tasks will be placed on the refrigerator in the kitchen and on the bulleting board in the office for reference.
3. Committee clerks will receive a reminder Care of the Meetinghouse list on Fridays during the month of their responsibility which includes the tasks included (as needed).
4. A hybrid approach will be used based on the size of the committee, the members of the committee who are attending in person, and the ability of attending committee members.
5. The first First Day of the month is Potluck Day and will also be "all hands-on deck." Community member who attend the potluck in-person will be asked to participate in Care of the Meetinghouse tasks to the extent of their ability.
6. On all other First Days, at the rise of 11:00 meeting for worship, a request will be made for volunteers to assist the assigned committee in accomplishing Care of the Meetinghouse tasks.
7. MHL should be notified by e-mail or by placing a note in committee mailbox of any needs for supplies, equipment or repairs identified during the Care of the Meetinghouse tasks so they can be addressed.

Composting Upgrades: There have been some issues raised about our current composting system over the past year, which concern proper aeration and the balance of materials which contribute to properly functioning composting. Recommendations have been prepared by MHL for an upgrading of the compost equipment and reuse of our current composting equipment. These will be discussed with interested community members at potluck on February 5, 2023. A lunch table will be set aside for those who are interesting in contributing to the discussion or just want to know more.

Not- Quite- Spring Workday: A workday is proposed for Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 9am-12pm with lunch and good company provided. A variety of indoor and outdoor tasks are proposed, including some late winter/early spring gardening and a list of tasks will be developed. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the website, so we have an idea of how many folks to plan to keep busy and feed. Contact MHL at meetinghouse@annapolisfriends.org with any questions.

Proposal to set up a Monthly Workday: MHL is proposing to set up a monthly workday on the (2nd Saturday of the month?) from 9-11 am to accomplish on-going summer garden tasks and other tasks that arise. This has not been finalized, and we are looking for feedback from the community on availability and interest.