

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM) Meeting for Worship with Attention to
Business (MfW wAtB)

3rd Month, 5th Day, 2023 (3/5/2023)

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., Canby R., Jenn D-L., Barb T., Cecile T., Diane S., Nan E., Sky E., Nancy Jo S., Wes J., Kim F., Bonnie P., Phil C., and Marjorie K.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Mary B., Minette C-S., Jean C., Ria H., Margaret C., Pat S., Jeanne W., Ann R., Jon H., Lisa H., Martha B., Phyllis S., Ted R., Marcia O., Larry M., and Christina F.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed and read queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: The Meeting Community while we settled into silent centering worship.

- • Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing?
- • Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey?
- • Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders?
- • Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others

with special needs?

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.

Agenda:

1) Communications Committee (CC):

a) On behalf of Communications Committee, Ellen M. shared an update about the

proposal to hire tech support to manage the Owl during Meeting for Worship.

1. i) Friends engaged in discussion and provided clarification about the details,

commitment, and required hiring practices involved.
2. ii) Friends approved the committee to begin the process of hiring tech support

with one Friend standing aside until we have a treasurer to agree to handle

the financial side.
3. iii) A Friend raised a concern about classifying the proposed tech support as an independent contractor. CC and MH&L agreed to have continued conversation to confirm all hiring practices and requirements are followed.

2) Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Liaison:

a) AFM's Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Liaison Canby R., shared an update from the

recent meeting along with a request from the Nuts and Bolts committee which organizes the meeting. Minutes are attached.

i) The N&B committee is requesting permission to host the next Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at AFM on September 17th 2023, with Canby to coordinate. Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting will organize all details and communications, but will request volunteers to assist with some of the onsite support during the event including setup, cleanup, and other duties.

ii) Friends were in unity to approve hosting the Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting on September 17th and additional details will be shared in the coming months.

3) Ministry and Worship (M&W):

a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. shared an update on the use of the 9:15 timeslot for MFL and

discussion about additional requests for use of that timeslot.

i) Friends engaged in discussion about past and present use of the 9:15 timeslot,

individual preferences, the current schedule of programs, and additional proposals for how to handle requests for use of the timeslot for the committee to consider. Based on the conversation, it was recommended that the committee have further discernment about the points raised during the meeting.

ii) A specific timely request was raised to host Pastor Parfaite Ntahuba, Director of the Friends Women's Association Clinic in Burundi, for a special educational lunch on April 23. Friends were in unity with this request. , with Committee clerks previously having reached an agreement to meet during the MfL timeslot.

iii) Friends were also in unity to allow the Clerk to hold a Committee clerks meeting during the 9:15 timeslot on April 23rd.

4) Outreach Committee (OC):

a) On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Cecile T. shared a proposal to participate in an

earth day event being held April 22nd at Quiet Waters Park, along with ideas for materials and activity for AFMs presence.

i) Friends shared additional ideas and suggestions and were in unity to participate in the event.

5) Meetinghouse & Lands (MH&L):

a) Kim F. shared updates about the following MH&L projects & activities:

1. i) The WIFI enhancement project: completed phase 1 successfully with great feedback & provided a cost update.
2. ii) Fire alarm issue: confirmed that a replacement is needed, and an estimate for replacement is in process, though not an emergency.
3. ization box: the committee is welcoming suggestions for its name and will be decorating it as part of upcoming workday.
4. iv) Lost and found items have been relocated and Friends are asked to please check them!
5. v) Reminder that Spring Workday is next Saturday March 11th, 9am-12pm with lunch provided afterward. Projects include playground repairs, for which volunteers are needed, relocating and assembling the new compost system, assembling the new tv cart, and gardening.

6) Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

a) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared an update on the use of emergent social funds & request for donations.

1. i) To provide support after the February 6th earthquake in Turkey, the committee decided to make emergency donations to the following organizations:

1) \$500 for Turkey through the [MD American Turkish Association](#) 2) \$250 for Syria through the [Syrian Defense Fund \(aka "White](#)

Helmets”)

2. ii) The committee is accepting additional suggestions and input for continued support from the Meeting; links are included to the aforementioned organizations.

7) Remainder of 2nd Month 2023 Minutes for approval:

- a) The remainder of the 2nd month draft minutes were requested to be

approved. Friends were in unity to approve the final draft.

8) Clerk’s announcements:

- a) The clerk shared the following announcements:

1. i) The clerks meeting was approved for April 23rd
2. ii) A “potluck and conversation” will be coming up; poll to follow to determine the date to discuss and reflect on the Black History month educational resources that were distributed on the AFM announce listserv.

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 April 2nd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2nd Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes ● Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting minutes

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Report February 12, 2023
Gunpowder Monthly Meeting

Following a gracious welcome with an offering of continental breakfast, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) gathered for Meeting for Worship at Gunpowder Monthly Meeting on a beautiful February Sunday in Sparks, Maryland.

At the close of Meeting for Worship, attenders enjoyed a delicious lunch, provided by and served by Gunpowder Friends, that included soups, salads, mac and cheese, fruit, and desserts beautifully displayed on the enclosed porch.

Following lunch CQM met for a Quarterly meeting session with a Zoom option for those not able to attend in person. Approximately 25 people attended from 8 Monthly Meetings.

Marilyn Rothstein welcomes us on behalf of Gunpowder Friends and shared a brief history and continuing function of CQM, to provide an opportunity to discuss concerns within and between the meetings of the Quarter before passing those concerns to Yearly Meeting in Baltimore.

The pandemic interrupted the regular gathering of CQM for a few years and currently the effort to restart CQM has been shouldered by a few Friends who feel that the value of CQM is needed.

Marilyn spoke about the need for more volunteers to join the Nuts & Bolts Committee, the committee that plans and organizes Quarterly Meeting now that the pandemic is concluded.

Three Friendly suggestions to encourage greater attendance were offered:

1. To continue to offer a Zoom option for those who cannot physically attend CQM in person.
2. To consider holding CQM on weekday nights rather than First Day afternoons.
3. To offer programs that include topics such as children's education or a program on the

activities of Peace and Social Concern Committees at various Monthly Meetings in the Quarter.

Presenters for the February Quarterly Meeting included Molly Finch, clerk for CQM's and Baltimore Yearly Meeting's "Quaker Voice of Maryland" and Phil Caroom, chair of Maryland Alliance of Justice Reform. Both Molly and Phil spoke about legislative priorities for the current Maryland legislative session.

Molly shared that, through surveys, the top priorities of BYM Friends for areas of interest for legislative consideration include climate change, criminal justice reform, and

civil rights. She spoke at length about the development of QVM website to serve as a tool for Marylanders for follow specific legislation through the process of a bill's journey from committee hearings to voting by the general legislature. She showed us tools to navigate the QVM site for day-to-day status of particular bills and how to contact individual legislators for the purpose of lobbying.

Phil shared that MARJ's top priority for legislation in the 2023 session is to pass a bill to create a "Correctional Ombudsman", an independent person who makes unannounced inspections of

prisons, can serve as a recipient of complaints by prisoners, and publish reports of same to corrections administrators and legislators.

MARJ has also developed a website so individuals can track progress of MARJ priority bills passing through the Maryland legislature.

Meeting was concluded after 3:00 pm. Submitted by Canby Robertson