

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes

Thirteenth Day, Seventh Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Nora, Olivia, Sophia and Ann Duncan, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod, Karrie Richards, Bill Marx, Emily, Will and Sam Keenum, Susan Umidi, Katie, Kayla, Adam and Baylor Brown, Scott and Maria Cannady, Brian McCutcheon, Daniel, Sophie and Jridori Batten, Bob Elam and son, Sandi Wiggins, Yoomie Ahn and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries were read from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading “Social Concerns”

Care and Community - Held “In the Light” those in our community needing assistance

Spiritual Nurture: Minute of Thanks for the work of Ann Duncan in crafting and submitting our annual *State of the Meeting* report for our records and for Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM).

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC) – worship-sharing continued the work began at our “Gathering for Clearness” session on soliciting Friends thoughts on social action priorities for action by MFM. Thoughtful images about **S**implicity and why we are here and struggles between need and want were expressed. **P**eace was stirring in one’s heart on the issue of white vs. black in our society especially here with a James River Experience. Knowing what to do and following one’s “leading” was expressed as the **I**ntegrity question, “how to address *it*?” There were thoughts about educating us more and a strong sense for the need to take action on **E**quality. Service and advocacy and fulfilling needs not being met and **S**tewardship for our community. Thomas Kelly was quoted with the question “What is a concern that speaks to you.” All the SPICES listed on our board of action from PSAC were covered in worshipful, thoughtful exercise.

Building and Grounds Committee – Karrie Richards reported on the developments of the Universal Access project about the pouring of the concrete walkways. More work and recommendations will be made at the 8th month meeting for business.

We closed in silence as our children returned and then reported on their religious education (RE) lessons.

**Tree & Property Stewardship Recommendations
Building and Grounds Committee
for the 8/10/14 Meeting for Business of Midlothian Friends Meeting**

Background:

At the July 13, 2014 B&G meeting, Howard Brod brought forward his concern that the September and October hurricane season is approaching and that there are dead and diseased trees that might fall in strong winds and rain. His hope is that these be cut ahead of the weather in order to minimize risk to property and people. B&G brought this concern to Business Meeting, which directed B&G to report back with specific tree recommendations and costs at the August Business Meeting. Business Meeting will then make the decisions about which trees to cut and B&G can proceed as directed by the Meeting.

Survey outcomes and actions forward:

On 7/20/14, several committee members plus another long-time Friend met and surveyed the trees; the group consisted of Howard Brod, Karrie Richards, Alan Rogers, & Monica Rogers.

The group inspected and discussed the numbered trees within in falling distance of our buildings, parking lot and entrances, selecting 8 that are recommended for cutting. Karrie Richards will contact Buddy McDaniel and ask him to estimate costs for cutting of the eight trees identified, with the understanding that between four and eight will probably be the number approved by the Meeting.

The group identified several other trees that should be watched closely, and another set of trees to monitor and reassess in about 5-10 years.

Additionally, the committee advised that pruning around the RE Building be done soon, and that native shrubs and plants be used when landscaping the front yard to help re-create the wooded ambience of our Meetinghouse.

Building and Grounds recommends that the following actions regarding our woodlot property:

Tree Cutting Recommendations:

Please refer to the numbered tree map for specific locations. Reasons are summarized in second column.

Tree #

Reasons/ location/disposition

33	Dying and seriously damaged; much trunk rot but tree still standing; close to Preservation Road entrance to parking lot. Can be cut and left to decompose in woods.
30	Dead tree in woods, narrow forked and rotting upright, within falling distance of the playground. Can be cut and left to decompose in woods.
27	Internal rot visible in large hollow trunk at base, close to Meetinghouse, leaning towards the Meetinghouse. County Forester advised removing this one. Could be cut for firewood, as nails from squirrel feeder preclude milling. Branches would need to be moved to woods or taken elsewhere.
17	Tree is unstable at base, as it is growing from an old stump; close to Meetinghouse and direction of fall will be towards Meetinghouse. Forester said it has high risk of shearing off in a windstorm and advised cutting it. Could be milled or cut for firewood. Branches would need to be moved to woods or taken elsewhere.
37	Dying tree, very large with a bent trunk, in deep woods close to RE Building & leaning towards RE Building. Can be cut and left to decompose in woods.
38	Dead tree, close to tree #37, still upright, but dropping limbs and rotting; if it falls against #37, both could move in direction of RE Building. If still solid enough, trunk could be given to Buddy for firewood or milling, with branches left to decompose in the woodlot; if not solid enough, entire tree can be left to decompose.
12	Root damage on several sides at base, especially on side facing RE Building. Close proximity to RE Building; probable direction of fall would be towards RE Building. Could be milled or cut for firewood. Branches would need to be moved to woods or taken elsewhere.
11	Root damage on the side facing RE Building. Close proximity to RE Building, probable direction of fall would be towards RE Building. Could be milled or cut for firewood. Branches would need to be moved to woods or taken elsewhere.

**Building and Grounds Recommendation to 8/10/14 Business Meeting,
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Tree "Watch List" :

Please refer to the numbered tree map for specific locations. Reasons are summarized in second column.

Tree #	Reasons/ location/disposition
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23 a&b	Narrow fork is low near base of tree, with one trunk being small and one large. Smaller fork is dropping limbs and looks stressed. Close to Meetinghouse & back deck. Monitor for further decline and remove smaller if necessary. Might need to seal wound to tree base in order to protect larger fork; will need to consult forester or other expert regarding this.
7 & 29	Trees sited within the parking lot. Both trees are inside the parking lot and under stress from cars driving on their roots and from being hit by cars; they are still healthy enough to leave in place.
4,5 & 6	Trees sited along the edge of the parking lot. Dropping branches due to stress from cars driving over their roots that extend underneath the parking lot. These trees are still healthy enough to leave in place.

Trees to monitor and reassess in about 5 years:

Please refer to the numbered tree map for specific locations. Reasons are summarized in second column.

Tree #	Reasons/ location/disposition
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19, 20, 21, & 22	Trees at back of Meetinghouse, in very close proximity to deck and Meetinghouse; narrow forked; one fork or the other will shear off sooner or later; some are leaning in towards Meetinghouse. Forester said these could be a problem in 5-10 years.
24, 25, & 26	"Squirrel feeder" trees on the chimney side of the Meetinghouse. Watch for indications of disease, leaning in, or damage, due to proximity to Meetinghouse.

Pruning needed:

Please refer to the numbered tree map for specific locations. Reasons are summarized in second column.

Tree #	Reasons/ location/disposition
13, 14, & 15	Smaller trees close to RE Building on the Huguenot Springs side; Forester and Pest Control guy both said these trees need pruning, so that branches aren't touching building; this will help to keep insects and pests out of the building.
Saplings	Saplings and brush surround the RE Building; these need to be removed before they grow too large.

Tree & Property Stewardship Recommendations
Building and Grounds Committee
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Survey outcomes and actions forward:

On 7/20/14, several committee members plus another long-time Friend met and surveyed the trees; the group consisted of Howard Brod, Karrie Richards, Alan Rogers, & Monica Rogers. The group inspected and discussed the numbered trees within in falling distance of our buildings, parking lot and entrances, identifying some to cut now, others to watch closely, and another set of trees to monitor and reassess in about 5-10 years. The committee advised that pruning & clearing around the RE Building be done soon, and that native shrubs and plants be used when landscaping the front yard to help re-create the wooded ambience of our Meetinghouse.

In early August, B&G added two trees to the removal list, bringing the number up to ten trees. Buddy McDaniel has given an approximate estimate for cutting the trees, and understands that we'll recontact him with the exact trees following the 8/10/14 Business Meeting. Costs range from \$300 to \$700; two of the trees might need to be stump ground (approximate cost is \$200).

Building and Grounds recommends the following actions regarding our woodlot property:

Tree Cutting Recommendations:

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17	Tree is unstable at base, as it is growing from an old stump; close to Meetinghouse; if tree splits at the base, its direction of fall will be towards Meetinghouse. Forester said it has high risk of shearing off in a windstorm and advised cutting it. Could be milled or cut for firewood. Branches would need to be moved to woods or taken elsewhere.
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7	Tree sited within the parking lot; damaged roots from cars driving on its roots; history of being hit by cars; dropping branches due to stress. Removing this tree will enable easier removal of tree #11 (and possibly removal of #12).
4	Tree sited along the edge of the parking lot; it is a very large and tall tree that leans towards Meetinghouse; it will hit roof at the front door if the tree falls towards the Meetinghouse.

