

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business
Minutes
Tenth Day, Second Month 2013 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included Howard Brod, Tom DeWeerd, Carol Carper, Karrie Richards, Maria Cannady, Claudia Farr, Ann Duncan, Sophia Duncan, Olivia Duncan, Nora Duncan, Roselle Clark, Brian McCutcheon, Liz Singer, Ethan Singer, Jan Rappe, Mark Beck, Debbie Beck, Jake Snider, Annie Snider, the two Snider girls, Jane Roberson, and Robyn Johnson.

The clerk opened meeting with a reading of a passage from the draft of the BYM Faith and Practice on meeting for business, pages 86-87.

After a review of the agenda, the clerk welcomed those in attendance including our assistant clerk, Maria Cannady, who will be taking the minutes for us today.

Spiritual Nurture Committee - Meeting for Nurture will be held at the rise of meeting on Third First Day in both 2nd and 3rd Month. In February there will be a small group discussion for approximately 20 minutes to discuss BYM Faith and Practice as a follow-up to something similar in January. On March 17th Martha Gay from the BYM Faith and Practice Revision Committee volunteered to visit Midlothian Monthly Meeting to explore our experience with the current draft and to answer any questions or concerns we might have about this proposed Faith and Practice.

Building and Grounds Committee – the clerk of B & G spoke about Spring Work Days-March 16th from 9am-1pm with **lunch provided**. Focus will be on plantings around the grounds and working on the old shed. Bring tools to work. The hope is also to work on parking lot to even out some of the gravel. She also reported that Ian Johnson came and cut the tree that was threatening the meetinghouse. She intends to get a horticultural expert come and walk the grounds to make recommendations for the property.

The handicap ramp grant application is done and will be signed by our clerk of meeting to be sent this week. A front porch may potentially run the length of the house. The ramp will run from the parking lot to the RE building and then to the meetinghouse. This long porch idea for the front of house would make everything level for wheelchair access and would help make a ramp more pleasing.

Treasurer's report - Contributions reveal that MFM ended Jan. 2013 with 112% of the monthly budget. There was one large donation showing a better than usual January because of this generous contribution. By the second Sunday in Feb, contributions are at 66% with two weeks remaining in the month. The budget spreadsheet projects amounts into the future and it currently shows a deficit for the year. This should not be a concern since it is only the sixth week of 2013. Long-term funds for each committee are listed. Each committee can check the spreadsheet to see fund amounts accumulated thus far; however, the entire committee budget can be spent.

Peace and Social Action Committee - The February 2013 recipients will be shared between Enterprise VA and VICPP. Madeline's House is the March 2013 recipient.

A report from the current legislative session shows some concerns such as the possible tightening of voter laws, possible increases in interest rates again by payday lending businesses, and also the possible blocking of undocumented workers' children from getting tuition. On the positive side, there is still a ban on uranium mining; the bill to lift the ban was voted down.

The clerk read a letter from a prisoner in Petersburg, VA. His friend, Arthur, is a Quaker at Adelphi Friends Meeting. Arthur's contact information was given as the way to begin a dialogue. If anyone would like to correspond with him, please contact Tom DeWeerd.

Thrifty Quaker (TQ) Annual Board Report – Several handouts were distributed including a list of charities that have benefitted from TQ donations since 1996. In addition, Friend\$hare Grants given by year reveals that Friend\$hare accumulated \$21,000 in 2012. This fund already has \$8,000 for 2013. These funds are used for one-time gifts designated for those in need in the community. The reserve fund for the TQ was explained to be helpful when there are slow months. January 2013 was one of those and has caused the lower than normal reserve fund balance. The store can operate for another month with this trend but both contributions and customers are needed.

BYM Youth Safety Policy Adoption – The BYM policy was briefly discussed. The BYM policy is six pages in length and very thorough. BYM has many youth conferences, so they need background checks and training for adults that go to workshops and work with all youth.

Our insurance carrier has requested a questionnaire be completed. If we had a youth safety policy, our insurance would be reduced. It will most likely go up without such a policy.

After discussing the possible adoption of the BYM policy, this topic was held over to give the RE committee time to review and discuss how to proceed. It was recognized that this could take the next several months. The treasurer will let the insurance firm know we are doing this.

Young Friends – The children reported on their kindness project. They made magic wands that they will leave randomly around town. Each has a web address and a kindness poem with instructions to do 3 random acts of kindness and pass the wand on. The idea is from kindness girl website. Kindness Girl has a Facebook page for the magic wand kindness project.

Meeting ended in silence at 12:15 p.m.