

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business
Minutes
Twelfth Day, First Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Brian McCutcheon, Ann, Lenora, Sophia and Olivia Duncan, Roselle and Dave Clark, Stephen, Debbie, Grant and Nora Long, Katie DeWeerd, Baylor, Adam and Kayla Brown, Susan Umidi, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod, Emily, Cate and Chuck Grove, Jane Roberson, Ann, Jake, Virginia and Claire Snider, Ambrose Humphrey, Brian Buniva, Maria, Scott, Haley and Andrew Cannady, Karrie Richards and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "Meeting for Worship"

Care and Community

- Held those in our community needing assistance "In the Light"
- Brian Buniva volunteered to do final revisions of the draft article Howard Brod wrote for the BYM Interchange.

Meeting wishes to express appreciation to Howard Brod for the updated MFM Directory distributed in December 2013.

Nominating

- Approval was given for the 2014 committee appointments

Religious Education (RE)

- The "pilot" with paid teachers will be evaluated at a future meeting for business

Treasurer's report:

- The 2014 budget was approved
- The January Financial Update was given time for discernment

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC)

- Thrifty Quaker donated \$19,000 to charities in 2013. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) recently was given a little over \$1,100. Future charities include the VA Conservation Network, Quaker House, Feedmore and the YMCA program Bright Beginnings.
- Worship-sharing time was given to the desires of those in attendance regarding social action.

Building and Grounds Committee:

- After some discussion, meeting gave the committee permission to move forward with plans to improve accessibility to the meetinghouse using grant money awarded to meeting from the Friends General Conference (FGC) Friends Meeting House Fund. The committee will continue to report progress and bring decisions to meeting such as any tree removal and construction to the meetinghouse.

Spiritual Nurture

- Sessions in the Quakerism 101 series continues on Quaker History, Faith and Practice at the Rise of Meeting on Third First Day of each month.
- An ad-hoc committee was appointed to plan our spring "Gathering for Clearness" will be formed; Ann Duncan has agreed to clerk this group.
- The Vision Statement from BYM will be discussed with Katherine Smith from a BYM committee on Feb. 2nd.
- We will need an ad-hoc committee for our State of the Meeting Report this year.

The meeting ended in silence as the children arrived at 12:30 pm and told of their events in First Day School.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business
Minutes
Ninth Day, Second Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Brian McCutcheon, Ann, Lenora, and Sophia Duncan, Roselle Clark, Dave Clark, Stephen, Debbie, Grant and Nora Long, Katie DeWeerd, Baylor, Adam and Kayla Brown, Susan Umidi, Howard Brod, Cate Grove, Chuck Grove, Jane Roberson, Ann, Jake, Virginia and Claire Snider, Brian Buniva, Barbara Cochrane, Maria Cannady, Scott Cannady, Karrie Richards, Sandi Wiggins, Diane Mattingly, Liz and Ethan Singer, Larry Barnett, Patti Barnes, Amy McVaugh, Maddox Owens McVaugh, Don McVaugh and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "Meeting for Worship"

Care and Community

- Held those in our community needing assistance "In the Light"
- The committee is creating a survey inventory of those interested in assisting others in MFM with a physical, emotional or spiritual need. The TownCrier will have information but if you do not see that and wish to be on the list, contact Brian McCutcheon.

Religious Education (RE)

- The "pilot" with paid teachers will be carried over to our March Meeting for Business

Treasurer's report:

- There was none this month and from now on will be offered every other month or as needed.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC)

- Some time was given for reflection on how Friend\$har might increase funding for those in need. Many ideas were floated including contacting United Way for more visibility, marketing like on the side of a bus, notices to state employees during the United Way Campaign, articles in the Chesterfield Observer and the local Powhatan paper, grant funds from places like Altria or the Community Foundation.

Building and Grounds Committee:

- Although MFM have already approved accepting the grant for universal access to our building, to be clear for their work, the committee sought and received approval to begin implementing this project. The committee will communicate regularly to business meeting and through the TownCrier.

Spiritual Nurture

- Sessions in the Quakerism 101 series continues on Quaker History, Faith and Practice at the Rise of Meeting on Third First Day of each month. February 16th on expectant waiting and March 16th on meeting for business.
- Reminder: the ad-hoc committee appointed to plan our spring "Gathering for Clearness" is being clerked by Ann Duncan, please let her know if you can help.
- We need an ad-hoc committee for our State of the Meeting Report this year; contact Tom DeWeerd if you can assist.

Announcement

- Our Web-Clerk, Dave Clark announced he is working on making the MFM web-site more usable for meeting items with security. More to follow.

The meeting ended in silence as the children arrived at 12:30 pm and told of their events in First Day School and distributed valentines.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Ninth Day, Third Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Brian McCutcheon, Ann, Olivia, and Nora Duncan, Roselle Clark, Dave Clark, Laura Clark, Howard Brod, Cate Grove, Chuck Grove, Maria Cannady, Karrie Richards, Liz and Ethan Singer, Larry Barnett, Debra Beck, Yoomie Ahn, Bill Marx, Amy McVaugh, Don McVaugh, Carol Carper, Emily, Will and Sam Keenum and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "Meeting for Business"

Care and Community

- Held those in our community needing assistance "In the Light"

Religious Education (RE)

- The "pilot" with paid teachers now in its sixth month was endorsed during a brief worship sharing. There has been better attendance this year; and, from a parent perspective, the teachers are a big piece of it. Positive comments about the lessons and teachers plus a Young Friends message that RE needs to meet outside more often were part of a very positive message of success and appreciation.
- The RE committee of Richmond Friends Meeting (RFM) has asked the MFM RE committee about hosting a Lock-In sometime this Spring for both MFM & RFM high school age Young Friends. Maria Cannady is arranging this, so please let her know if you are interested in attending or in assisting with this event.

Treasurer's report: There was none this month and from now on will be offered as needed

Building and Grounds Committee:

- Presented a five-point summary of the committees thinking on Universal Access for our building plus drawings of two options (see attached handouts).
- They sought advice from Friends on the points presented and on the next step in this project and there was a sense-of-meeting on several points during this extended sharing.
 - o Option two is much preferred as railings are not attractive or desired for our entrance.
 - o After it was explained and understood why the three trees should be removed for both better and straighter access as well as to prevent roots from destroying the sidewalk not to mention that they are close to the building, there appeared consensus this was an appropriate action.
 - o The cost seems well within the grant given the deal on the cement work and thinking about project management, it would be wise to do it sooner rather than later.
 - o While everyone liked the porch roof, there was sentiment that this could wait for more discussion about the current roof and wait for a clearer way-to-open to pay for the roof at a later date.
 - o There was unity that the committee has done a wonderful job in preparing the documents and presenting some clear thinking for our consideration. The sense-of-meeting was that the committee should take the thoughts expressed and bring back a recommendation for approval.

Spiritual Nurture

- Sessions in the Quakerism 101 series continues on Quaker History, Faith and Practice at the Rise of Meeting on Third First Day of each month. The topic for March 16th is on Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business.
- Reminder: the ad-hoc committee appointed to plan our spring "Gathering for Clearness" is being clerked by Ann Duncan, please let her know if you can help.
- Members are needed for an ad-hoc committee for a State of the Meeting Report; contact the clerk if you can assist.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC) – News and information held over for next month

The meeting ended in silence as the children returned from RE at 12:20 pm and told of their events that took place outside!

We affirm the children of our Meeting, for they are precious to us, and we work to educate them in the universal truths found in Quakerism and other spiritual traditions.

Midlothian Friends Meeting (MFM)
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes Eleventh Day, Fifth Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Ann Duncan, Karrie Richards, Bill Marx, Emily, Will and Sam Keenum, Jane Roberson,, Erin DeWeerd, Susan Umidi, Katie, Kayla, Adam and Baylor Brown, Anne Strathie, 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 - Ann Duncan reported on the “Gathering for Clearness” which included a session on the Peace and Social Action Committee’s discernment of the MFM priorities for action. This work will continue into the summer at Business Meeting as they seek to add to the “Stickie Chart” being created. Also, the ‘vision statement update’ was postponed from the retreat gathering to be included over the next 6 months at meeting for business. Finally, the draft of the State of the Meeting Report was presented and revision suggested made.

Building and Grounds Committee – Karrie Richards reported on the developments of the Universal Access project which is the fulfillment of “Option One” with the removal of the three trees in the way of the walkway and the pouring of the concrete walkways and the front porch with porch roof footings for possible use at an unspecified later date.

We ended meeting with a tree tour led by Karrie with background from the committee and advice from the VA Department of Forestry. The children joined in this informational activity and we ended about 12:45 p.m. as we dispersed after viewing all the marked trees.

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,
Page 2**

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
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 trees could 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, 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.

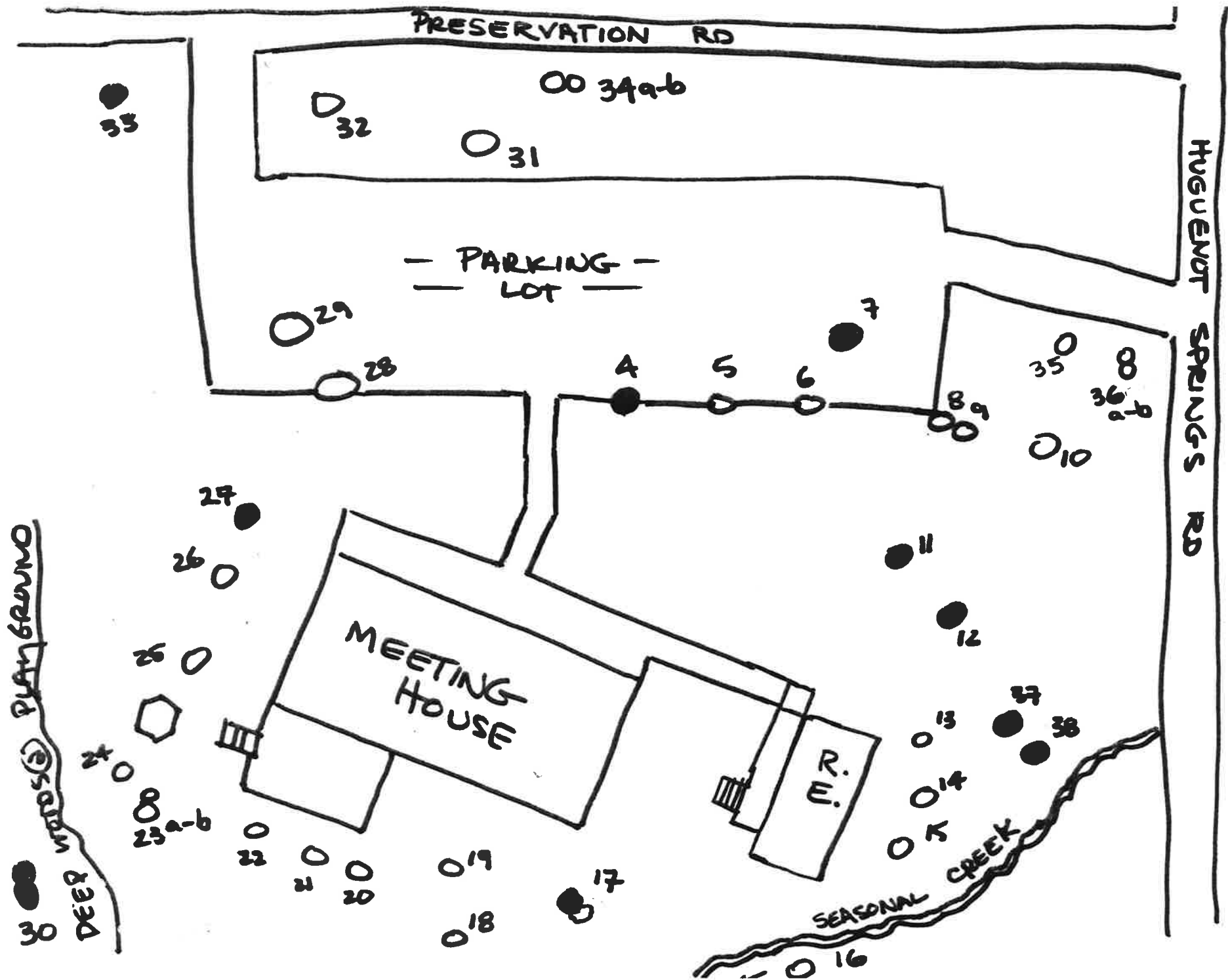
In early August, B&G added two trees to the removal list, bringing the number up to ten trees. Buddy McDaniel has given an approximate estimate for cutting the trees, and understands that we'll recontact him with the exact trees following the 8/10/14 Business Meeting. Costs range from \$300 to \$700;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

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 tree; much trunk rot but tree is 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; 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.
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.
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.



Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Fourteenth Day, Ninth Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Ann Duncan, Howard Brod, Claudia Farr, Scott Cannady, Brian Buniva, Dee Dee Mattingly, Sandi Wiggins, Chuck and Cate Grove, Emily Keenum, Brian McCutcheon, Steve Long, Patty Barnes, Dave and Roselle Clark and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries were read from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "*Community*" from p. 66.

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

Spiritual Nurture – Meeting began a 'vision statement' update with attention to how we envision our spiritual home. Some deeply felt sharing took place as Dave Clark took us into this process.

Treasurer's Report – Howard Brod as treasurer made the recommendation to reduce our 2014 budget by about \$4,100.00 based on the reality of monthly contributions. After discussion and recognition that the financial stewardship committee had also met about this situation, the proposed cuts were accepted (see attached report).

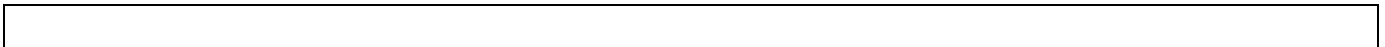
The clerk will write a statement for distribution. In addition, any contributors who want more data on donations may simply make a request to the treasurer.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC) – Our work on the MFM priorities for action based on *Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship* (SPICES) that started at our "Gathering for Clearness" continued. It was agreed that we would continue to use the board started at our retreat.

Building and Grounds Committee – Workdays on 9/20 & 9/27 were announced.

Clerks Comments – The importance of a clock added on the mantel is an acknowledgement that there is not a member of our Spiritual Nurture Committee on hand at each First Day Worship. The clock and a short script with directions will aide those volunteering to close worship each Sunday.

A short silence ended business meeting
as our children returned from First Day School



Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Twelfth Day, Tenth Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Bill Marx, Olivia, Sophia and Nora Duncan, Ann Duncan, Adam, Baylor and Kayla Brown, Katie DeWeerd, Erin DeWeerd, Susan Umidi, Joy Heaton, Cate Grove, Chuck Grove, Karrie Richards, Robyn Johnson, David Clark, Roselle Clark, Stephen Long, Howard Brod, and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence - Queries were read from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "*Community*" from p. 66. There were several shared messages on "*What helps our Meeting build trust in on another?*"

Care and Community – Several Friends asked for someone to be "Held In the Light"

Spiritual Nurture – Meeting focused some time on the 2nd section of our 'vision statement' with attention to how we encourage each individual in her or his spiritual journey and reaching language that identifies that we strive to experience inner peace without trying to reach any particular spiritual destination. Some deeply felt sharing took place as Dave Clark again took us into this process.

Treasurer's Report – While there was no report from Howard at this meeting, his monthly treasurer's report is sent out on the Quaker Town Crier. A statement was approved that had been requested by Ninth Month meeting for business. It will be published online this week.

Everyone should know that their presence at meeting is the most important gift, donation, or contribution they can make to our spiritual community. We never want finances to interfere with anyone's participation in our meeting. While we have had less financial success than anticipated when our 2014 budget was created and approved, we continue to make our most basic obligations to keep meeting going. Substantial cuts have been made to accept the reality of our budget shortfall and meeting will continue to evaluate our situation as our budget year comes to an end. Any contributor wishing to see an evaluation of contributions should contact Howard Brod, our treasurer, to receive a copy of the breakdown of our donation data. Our treasurer's report with the cuts approved at Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business is attached.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC) – Our work on the MFM priorities for action based on *Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship* (SPICES) led to a wonderful session about restorative justice last month. Next First Day, October 19th, a spiritual nurture session will be held – Values Clarification Workshop. This will take place at rise of meeting and be led by Sandi Wiggins. In November, Stephen Long will lead a session on Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). The Thrifty Quaker (TQ) donated more than \$3,000 to the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) in September and gave more than \$12,000 to all others this year.

Building and Grounds Committee – Workdays on 9/20, 9/27 and 10/11 were successful. The evidence is clearly visible in the front of our meetinghouse. The work continues to make the walkway safe and planning by this hard working committee continues. Meeting thanked them!

Clerks Comments – The Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Interim Meeting was held in Richmond on Saturday where support for MFM was expressed by members of the Stewardship & Finance Committee. BYM will be sending visitors to share with us what BYM offers to MFM.

A short silence ended business meeting as our children returned from First Day School.

Painted pumpkins & birdhouses will be on sale this Fall to raise funds for a charity of their choice.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes

Ninth Day, Eleventh Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Cate Grove, Chuck Grove, Bill Marx, Maria Cannady, Karrie Richards, Debbie, Stephen, Grant and Nora Long, Jane Roberson, Katie DeWeerd, Ann Duncan, Olivia Duncan, Nora Duncan, Howard Brod, Robyn Johnson, and Tom DeWeerd

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Proposed Queries on Outreach were listed to consider during the opening silence. One asks, “How does my life witness to my Quaker faith?”

Care and Community – Several Friends asked for someone to be “Held In the Light”

- o Note from BYM Faith & Practice, p. 31 **The work of “Holding in the Light” can be healing and helpful to others; even simply knowing that this is happening in a difficult time may be a profound blessing. Almost certainly, our own lives will be changed as well. As our awareness embraces the relationship between the Divine and the individual, our own relationship to the eternal is touched. The life of the Meeting will also be changed; the Meeting as a body becomes a community of concern with a common focus, a shared vision, and a gathered sense of loving care.”**

Nominating Committee – The roster for the 2015 roles and committee positions that begin in January for MFM was outlined with just a few remaining needs: hospitality has one opening, Care and Community has a need for at least one other, and the RE committee this coming year will be made up of the two teachers, Laura Clark and Katie DeWeerd, with the need for another member or two to help with decisions and possible planning of our annual retreat events for the children, as well as, any outings or events that may be planned (A meeting of parents with the teachers will take place in January), and finally, no one yet has stepped up to take over as clerk of meeting.

Spiritual Nurture – The annual candlelight Christmas Eve worship will again be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24th. An ad-hoc committee was formed to make sure the meetinghouse is open, decorated and that music will be part of the worship. We look forward to having this worship.

Treasurer’s Report – Direction was provided to the treasurer regarding how to handle capitol projects in the creation of the 2015 budget. He plans to work with the financial stewardship committee on this issue. Two questions were considered;

- o Do we want to budget money for capitol projects like we have been doing?
- o Do we want to allow Friends to contribute to projects beyond a normal unrestricted contribution for the meeting’s operating expenses and create more “restricted” funds?

The two capitol projects are tied together: a porch roof and replacement of our meeting house roof. After some good questions and discernment, it seemed the two are not mutually exclusive and we could do both. This will be decided at 12 months meeting for worship with concern for business.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Ninth Day, Eleventh Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC): Announcements

- o The topic for our *Meeting for Nurture* next First Day, November 16th at rise of meeting will be Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) facilitated by Stephen Long.
- o The current charity selection for the Thrifty Quaker is RISC - "**Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC)**", an interracial, interfaith, nonpartisan organization which brings congregations together to build the power to meet God's call to "do justice" in the Greater Richmond region." This group's strong presence in the Richmond area advocates for the disadvantaged. They are involved in tutoring in schools, running food pantries, and also holding elected officials accountable for fairness and economic justice.
- o The December charity is Madeline's House; this is a battered women's shelter

Building and Grounds Committee – The next Workday will be Saturday, November 22nd and include raking leaves, cleaning the inside of meeting and staining the deck. All are welcome and needed. Times will be determined based on the weather since staining should not be done early on a cold fall day. Details will be announced on the Quaker Town Crier.

Clerks Comments – Several requests have come from BYM regarding visitors wishing to speak to MFM and they have been given to the PSAC committee to help with planning as part of the Meeting for Nurture series.

- o One Friend from Herndon Friends Meeting wishes to speak to us about our relationship to animals and how that ties in with Quaker testimonies
- o The BYM Financial Stewardship Committee wishes to visit us to discuss the value of BYM and why there is apportionment and to answer our questions.
- o Another Maryland Friend from the BYM Unity With Nature (UWN) Committee has relayed that at the Annual Session this year, BYM approved a minute from the UWN committee. The minute concerns Right Relationship with Nature. The minute asks each Monthly Meeting in BYM to discern on climate change, resource depletion and environmental degradation. Here is a link to the minute from the UWN page of the BYM website:

http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/nature/rightrelations.html

A short silence ended business meeting as our children returned from First Day School.

Painted pumpkins & birdhouses will be on sale next week to raise funds for the children's chosen charity. These items are meant for you to use as part of your Thanksgiving Day table decorations.