

Doylestown Friends Meeting

Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business - April 9, 2023

Clerk Liz Fritsch opened the meeting with a period of worship. About seven Friends attended in person and four via Zoom. The March minutes were approved.

Finance:

- Ken Miller reported that March contributions were \$1913, which was about \$150 more than this time last year.
- We are behind last year's Year-to-date by about \$2000. We are 75% through our budget year and we need to bring in \$18,650 in contributions in the next 3 months to meet our income budget for the year.
- Total expenses for March were \$5833.49. Expenses included a \$19.07 book purchase for the library, \$128.05 purchase of Pendle Hill pamphlets by Worship and Ministry to replenish our display, \$215.83 for communications includes internet for the meeting, wordpress, and monthly zoom cost, \$5231.25 to Bucks Quarterly Meeting for our third quarterly payment for Bucks Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and \$233.97 for gas and electric for the meeting.
- Since December 31, 2022 our market value for our Endowment Fund increased by \$3508.62. Our market value for all our other restricted and designated funds increased by \$8,212. This amount was distributed to each restricted and designated fund based on their percentage of the total value of all the funds as of February 2023.
- Capital Maintenance Fund also had an expense of \$629.50 in March for purchase of much needed tables.

Education and Conference Committee. No reports.

Finance committee:

Liz Fritsch read the following updates provided from the Finance Committee regarding the endowment fund:

- From recent business meetings, it was the sentiment of the Finance Committee to keep our Endowment Fund (EF) and have a Reserve Funds (RF) to meet the needs of the Meeting better, which has been facing more unexpected maintenance and capital expenses.
- A merger of the EF into a RF remains unanswered. The meeting, with the Finance Committee's guidance, needs to better define each fund and ascertain what impacts a merger might have on existing and potential donors.
- At this time, the Finance Committee recommends that both funds be retained for now. It also recommends, however, that six smaller "designated" funds be rolled into the RF to streamline accounting and allow more flexible use of reserve funds where needed in a

particular year. These smaller funds include: Assistance Fund; Atkinson Fund; Extracurricular Quaker Ed. Fund; Larry Miller Memorial; Library; and Peace and Social Concerns. Quarterly distributions from Friends Fiduciary Fund will be revised accordingly.

- Should the meeting approve the Committee's recommendations, it will take up redefining the EF and RF.
- The Committee recommended that the meeting should not pursue further diversification of the funds it holds with Friends Fiduciary.

The meeting approved the recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Nominating. Wendy Steginsky didn't have any updates to report

Hospitality. No reports.

Worship and Ministry.

Maggie Boyer reported that they are working on some projects that they will present soon.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

John Baker was unable to attend but provided the following updates.

- The Peace and Social Concerns Committee facilitated the April Quaker Forum which was well attended. Its focus was on homophobia and how it impacts all aspects of our lives from the very personal to the political and greater culture of our society. A Quaker Speak's video on Transgenderism was shown followed by discussion, including vibrant stories of personal experiences with exposure to homophobia and insights gained from individual struggles with it and ways to deal with it in others.
- The committee also met via Zoom to discuss how to manage this year's biannual request from FCNL that our Meeting discern what 118th Congressional Legislative Priorities we would like FCNL to lobby for before Congressional members. The committee then shaped an email that was sent out on the Meeting's listserv detailing when a Meeting-wide Zoom meeting would be held to discern which priorities we would like to submit to FCNL.

Pastoral Concerns.

- Bill provided a report that is attached.
- Bill indicated that they will be providing a \$50 donation from their budget to the “Breakfast at Judy’s” band which will be performing.

Property.

- Dave Crosman reported that there is a signup for mowing the lawn and meetinghouse cleanup in the ‘Weekly Volunteer Sign Up Sheet’ spreadsheet on our website (found under the Resources tab).
- The committee is in the process of getting estimates to repaint the outside of the meetinghouse.
- The committee asked permission to remove the 6 shutters on the 3 windows in the back of the meetinghouse since they require a lot of maintenance from deterioration. There were some reservations expressed on this idea from both a historical standpoint and from the character that the shutters add to the meetinghouse. No decisions were made but the committee will ask the contractors who are currently providing painting estimates to include estimates with and without the shutters. The overall sense of the meeting was to keep the shutters.
- The committee will also contact roofing contractors to discern how long the existing roof should last.
- After getting some additional estimates, the Property committee recommended replacing the current heater, which is 25 years old, with a gas heater instead of pursuing a heat pump. The estimated cost for a new gas heater is \$11,900. This would allow us to have a much better filtration system as well as ultraviolet (included in the cost of heater) to reduce carbon dioxide levels. The new gas heaters are also more efficient than the furnaces from 25 years ago, so we should expect to see a decrease in utility expenses. The meeting deferred to the committee to go with their recommendation to replace the heater with a gas heater.
- The current lawn mower is being replaced with cordless electric lawn mower, and the committee is exploring an option to put an outlet in the shed to charge the mower.
- There was also discussion on options to provide individuals in wheelchairs to access the area downstairs to help with First Day School. Dave would like to approach a company that installs elevators and chairlifts to get their advice, and the meeting was supportive of Dave investigating this further.

Communications. No reports.

First Day School. Rosemary didn’t have any updates

Bucks Quarterly Meeting. No reports.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. No reports.

The meeting was adjourned after a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob McMahon, Assistant Clerk

Report from the Pastoral Concerns Committee - Bill Thode

The PCC committee report will cover the following:

- 1.) The Fourth Sunday Forum is set up. The band "Breakfast at Judy's" will perform after MFW. Rich Laughlin and Dave Crossman are in the group. I have sent out one listserv and will send another announcing the event this weekend.
- 2.) The guestbook. The committee has set up a procedure to contact people who have signed the guestbook. We are working with Bob McMann to have these people added to Listserv and the directory if they request it. In the past few months we have added 6 individuals to our Listserv after contacting them.

These are the main items to present to business meeting.