

MINUTES OF MOUNT TOBY MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2016 (PENDING REVIEW)

1. **Opening Worship:** We begin at noon with a period of worship, during which the clerk reads Psalm 121 and invites Friends to reflect on “whence comes our strength.”

2. **Minutes:** We review and accept the October minutes.

3. **Ministry & Worship Committee**

a) Mary Link, clerk, brings M&W’s recommendation to approve the membership of Jordan Helzer (ref. 6/19/2016, minute 3). David Scott and Don Campbell served as the clearness committee.

Friends **approve** the membership of Jordan Helzer.

b) M&W has received reports (attached) from Jan Hoffman and the Committee of Oversight of Ministry of Jan Hoffman covering the period January 2014 to March 2016. The oversight committee has consisted of Carlos Turriago, Andy Grant, Nina Weyl, Dorrie Merriam and Danelle LaFlower. Andy Grant and Nina Weyl are going off the committee, and M&W will be appointing a new fourth member soon.

Danelle LaFlower, on behalf of the Committee of Oversight of Ministry of Jan Hoffman, presents a summary of their report. While Jan became clear to step down as clerk of New England Yearly Meeting’s *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee, and she does not yet know how she will be led, the committee has a clear sense that Jan’s ministry will continue in some form.

Jan presents a brief overview of the history of accountability of gifts and ministry, and in particular of Mount Toby Meeting’s oversight of her ministry. She then shares highlights of her report. Jan has been challenged recently by not having a clear answer to her own question of how she has been faithful. She finds in this period that God is calling her to replenish her spiritual, physical and emotional reserves, and is grateful to her oversight committee for their insistence that she lie fallow for a time.

4. **History & Records Committee**

Carol Letson, committee clerk, presents the committee’s annual report (attached). The committee has added much-needed storage space, held numerous work parties for their committee, and is continuing to organize and cull files. They note that photos of current meeting events are no longer being taken and maintained as regularly as they were in the past. The committee would appreciate any hard copies of photos, with identification on the back.

Friends **receive** the report.

5. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Will Savitri presents a financial report (attached) for the period June 1-November 2. Our contributions are down around 33% compared to the same time last year, while income from rental use is slightly up as expected. Friends **accept** the report.

6. **Meetinghouse Committee**

Nina Weyl, committee clerk, presents a report (attached). In August of this year, it was brought to the attention of the Meetinghouse Committee that we were no longer in compliance with our current status as a private water supply. To comply as a private water supply, 25 or more people can use the building no more than 60 days per year. Currently, our building is being used over twice that many days in a year by more than 25 people. The committee has proceeded with the steps to become a public water supply, including meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection and with a certified water operator, Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing. Annual costs for monthly water tests could vary, but will likely be \$1,200 per year. There are items that would only need to be done if and when necessary, but \$380 would be the total additional if all had to be done in any one year.

We **approve** the Meetinghouse Committee spending \$805 from the Capital Improvements Fund to pay for initial expenses.

We also **authorize** the Meetinghouse Committee to hire Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing as our certified water operator, and the meeting clerk to sign a contract with the company.

We **approve** adding the sum of approximately \$1,500 to this year's budget and as an ongoing utilities expense in future years.

[Other items in the Meetinghouse Committee report were postponed to a future meeting for business.]

7. Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting

The clerk reports that Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting met at Woolman Hill for the annual fall retreat, September 30-October 2. The theme was around Friends World Committee for Consultation and the World Quaker Day celebrated on October 2.

Mount Toby is responsible for hosting the February 5, 2017 quarterly meeting. Lynn Parker and Andy Grant volunteer to work with the clerk on program planning.

8. Climate Witness Committee

Alan Eccleston, clerk, presents an update and timetable (attached) for the committee's work toward installing heat pumps and a solar array (ref. 10/9/2016, minute 6). The committee also presents a Green Meetinghouse Fundraising Survey (attached) which will be circulated to help the committee assess the financial viability of going forward.

9. Land Use Committee

Audrey Barker-Plotkin, clerk, presents the committee's report (attached) and a recommendation to transfer approximately two acres of Mt Toby Meeting land to neighbors Bob Strong and Micha Archer (ref. 7/13/2014, minute 13; 9/14/2014, minute 12). This land is west of the current woods road and adjacent to the Archer/Strong house and driveway.

Friends **approve** the committee moving forward with negotiating the transfer of land to Micha Archer and Bob Strong with the following basic conditions, bringing a final draft agreement to a future meeting for business.

- The boundary will shift to the "new" woods road, beginning at the pin flagged by Bob Strong in July 2016 and following the center line of the new woods road to the point where the old woods road joins the new woods road. This line has already been surveyed as part of a 1992 easement agreement with Cows.
- No parking or permanent structures will be allowed on the transferred land.
- The buyers will sign an affidavit to maintain the land in a use compatible with Chapter 61B.
- The transfer will be handled as a normal purchase and sale, with a purchase price of \$1.
- The buyers will pay all the costs associated with the land transfer, including survey and legal fees of both parties. Where possible, the buyers will pay the costs directly. Otherwise, the meeting will provide a copy of the paid bill to the buyer, and the cost will be reimbursed to the seller at the closing.
- Any work on the land from the signing of a purchase and sale agreement to closing will be by mutual agreement between the buyer and seller.
- The meeting's offer to transfer this piece of land stands until May 31, 2017. A purchase & sale agreement must be signed by that date.

10. Joint Committees of Ministry & Worship and Care & Counsel

Mary Link, M&W clerk, and Mary Ellen Preston, C&C clerk, present the joint committee's report (attached) about the experiment of concurrent worship (ref. 3/13/2016, minute 4). Since March 2016, there have been two concurrent worships – one in the main worship room and one in the Champney Room. In addition to discussion at their regular committee meetings, M&W conducted a survey to assess how this experiment has been going. The survey responses indicate that many Friends would like to continue the experiment, with a wide diversity of ideas about several of its aspects. The committees hope to further consider questions and suggestions from the survey responses, and possibly make changes to the experiment as they proceed. They may plan for a threshing session in the spring to bring us all together for our next reflection on how it is going and how it is affecting our worship and community.

Friends receive the report and **approve** the recommendation that we continue with concurrent worship in the main worship room and Champney Room, with another report to be brought in the late spring of 2017.

11. **Minutes:** We **approve** the minutes as read by the recording clerk.

12. **Closing worship:** We close in worship at 2:20pm.

Clerk: Ann McNeal

Recording Clerk: Margaret Cooley

Present:

Stephen Antonelli, Audrey Barker-Plotkin, Peter Blood-Patterson, Bud Brennan, Sybil Brennan, Don Campbell, Judi Campbell, Roger Conant, Shirley Conant, Margaret Cooley, Andrea Cousins, Kathy Dyer, Alan Eccleston, Nina Fischer, Andy Grant, Anne Hazzard, Jan Hoffman, Ken Hoffman, Cynthia Jacelon, Danelle LaFlower, John Lambdin, Sarah Lambdin, Carol Letson, Mary Link, Tom Mazur, Ann McNeal, Dorrie Merriam, Nicola Metcalf, George Munger, Lynn Parker, Melissa Perot, John Preston, Mary Ellen Preston, Ka Rehm, Rebecca Reid, John Ridgway, Airlie Rose, Will Savitri, Adele Smith-Penniman, Will Snyder, Paul Spence, Don Stone, Janee Stone, Alice Swift, Carlos Turriago, Nina Weyl, Char White, Hal White

Attachments

Jan Hoffman ministry report

Oversight of Ministry of Jan Hoffman committee report

History & Records annual report

Treasurer report

Meetinghouse Committee report

Green Meetinghouse update

Green Meetinghouse fundraising survey

Land Use report

Joint Committee (Ministry & Worship, Care & Counsel) report

Concurrent worship survey results