

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Minutes Approved
Sept 11, 2016

Present: John Hatten (Clerk), Lorina Hall, Lisa Farino, Dusty Andersen, Karen Steen, Susan Richardson, Joanne Cowan, Allan Richardson, Lynne Lohr, Joan Ofteness, Sharon Trent, Jean Brechan, Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein

2016.09.01.1 Minutes from the July 24th MfWfB were approved.

The Clerk asked whether committee reports that have been distributed previously by email should be read in their entirety or whether we should skip to action items. Friends felt that Friends could ask questions as needed, and that the entire report need not be read if it had been previously circulated.

2016.09.02 SEC - Joan O.

2016.09.02.1 Action item: SEC proposed a minute in support of the Standing Rock Sioux (attached).

Discussion: A discussion ensued regarding who should receive copies of this document. Several suggestions were offered. John Hatten suggested it be sent to NPYM and to any group that SEC thinks could receive. Others suggested Western Friend in addition.

The meeting approved the minute (attached) in support of the Standing Rock Sioux.

2016.09.02.2 Action item: Would the meeting approve use of the Quaker banner at the Sept 12 rally for the Standing Rock Sioux? **The meeting supported use of the banner.**

2016.09.02.3 Information item: Joan reported that in the absence of a regular clerk, clerking duties will be rotated monthly among committee members.

2016.09.03 Ministry and Counsel- Susan R (report attached)

2016.09.03.1 Action item: The Meeting approved the membership of Kristen McLewin.

2016.09.03.2 Announcements:

- Ministry and Council will have a committee retreat in October
- Retreat Follow-up report is included in the M&C report
- M&C will arrange a series of second hours on Friends desires for a meeting house

Discussion: Questions were raised about the purpose of this series and whether we should have the meeting house scouts continue to look for a place. Sharon T noted that many Friends are informally looking for a suitable place.

A question was raised regarding reports of potential spaces since the Meeting previously agreed that potential sites examined would be brought to the attention of the meeting. Sharon T noted that and agreed to inform the meeting of sites evaluated to the extent that she was aware of them. Judy H shared that she and her husband had explored a place that looked perfect, but was unacceptable because of the long-time residence and consequent saturation with the odor of multiple cats.

- Susan shared that the Bell Tower Studios is being sold to Lydia Place.

- Mary Ann Percy will offer a second hour on Joanna Macy's work Oct 30.

2016.09.03.3 Discussion regarding Guidelines for Decision Making document.

Dusty Andersen asked about the Guidelines for Decision Making. M&C explained that they have not been able to get to this, and that is one of the items that will be addressed in the M&C retreat. Dusty also asked that the document be accessible - perhaps through the E-News - before it comes to Meeting the next time. Frustration was expressed regarding the continuing discussion of this item outside of committee.

2016.09.04 **OWC** - Don G (report attached)

2016.09.04.1 Action item - OWC asked that the meeting have a formal policy that pictures of children not be included in the online photo gallery for safety concerns.

Discussion: Upon questioning, it was clarified that this policy would not apply to group pictures, but only the gallery. Karen S asked whether there are safety concerns or documented safety risks associated with children's photos online. Other Friends asked about the reason for the proposed policy. Don G responded that a few adults have declined to have their picture on the internet, and the committee felt that it should therefore be careful about children's pictures. Sharon T expressed frustration that Friends were not allowing the committee to do its work. John H handed his clerking role over to Susan R in so that he could express his own feelings that all pictures should be a personal choice. He felt that pictures of children to be a personal choice of the children's parents. Dusty A pointed out that our meeting has a private and a public section. She and Joanne Cowan suggested putting the pictures in the private section. John H suggested that there is an easy way to put the pictures of children in a private section. A suggestion was offered that a request for comments regarding posting of pictures of children be placed in the E-News. After being asked for her input as the parent of a young child, Lisa F shared that other groups to which she belonged avoided posting names of children and posted only group pictures without names to illustrate that the group did include children. She also noted that other groups obtain and archive permission from adults, and she hoped our meeting would do so as well.

The topic was referred back to committee with the suggestion that a request for further input from Friends be placed in the E-News.

2016.09.05 **Nominating Committee:** Lorina H:

2016.09.5.1 Action item: Cheiron Moriya was nominated as a member of SEC. Her appointment was accepted for seasoning.

2016.09.05.2 David Hopkinson was nominated to fill the position of the Building Liaison. The Meeting agreed to immediate appointment without seasoning as requested to facilitate establishment of a clear channel of communication between Friends and Explorations Academy.

2016.09.06 **Finance Committee** - Allan R (report(s) attached)

Statement of Financial Activity - Income and expense report - Attention was drawn to the miss-match between income and expenses.

Discussion: Susan suggested that we might put a little notice in the E-News.

Balance Sheet: Comment - the deficit relative to last year at this time is in part due to expenses incurred in exploring purchase of the Bell Tower.

2016.09.07 Children's Committee report (attached)

2016.09.08 Spring Quarterly Meeting planning - Don G distributed a copy of the flier announcing Spring Quarterly Meeting. He shared a few other details about Quarterly Meeting Planning.

2016.09.09 Member Concerns

2016.09.09.1 Hospitality Concern - Mark H asked for suggestions on ways to remind people that we do not have permission to use all the supplies in the kitchen. He also asked for suggestions about other things that people might like, and asked that people not bring more dishes or cups.

Suggestions and comments in response:

- Susan R asked if we could have soup bowls.
- Don G expressed concern about when our administrative supplies could be moved out of the kitchen. A request was made that the new liaison explore when we be able to move them.
- Don G suggested that the tables be moved to allow more space between the serving counter and the tables.
- Karen S - pointed out that sign up sheets are often blank for kitchen duties.
- Dusty A - noted that people are not using the ingredient labels for foods - she asked that labels and pens be on the table.

2016.09.09.2 Friend's upcoming surgery. Susan R reported that Aurora Fox is having double knee surgery in the near future, and that we may set up a meal train and perhaps a care committee.

2016.09.09.3 E-News: John H commented that the E-News has become very "rich". Judy Hopkinson asked that Friends consider what they would like to see in the E-News and any changes they would like to see, and that we discuss this next time. She also asked Friends to consider whether they might like to take on greater editorial responsibility.

2016.09.09.4 Metamorphosis Lorina Hall announced that Betty McMahon is resigning as a editor of the newsletter

2016.09.10 Minutes of appreciation:

2016.09.10.1 The Meeting minutes its appreciation to Mark Hersh for his attention to detail and the excellent job he is doing in the meeting.

2016.09.10.2 The Meeting minutes its appreciation to Judy Hopkinson for her faithful work on the E-News.

2016.09.10.3 The Meeting minutes its appreciation to Betty McMahon for her remarkable work on the Metamorphosis and her long time dedication and service to our Meeting.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence at 1:30 PM

M&C Report 9-11-16
Bellingham Friends Meeting

1. M&C met 9-6-16, attended by Susan Richardson (host), Mary Ann Percy, Larry Anderson, John Hatten (recording minutes)

2. September query--John will print copies and write it on the chalkboard and read it at Meeting this coming Sunday. From NPYM

Faith and Practice, p.43, "Mutual Care":

"Are we charitable with each other? How careful are we of the reputation of others? Do we avoid hurtful criticism and gossip? Do we practice the art of listening to one another, even beyond words? How well are we able to love each other unconditionally?"

3. Membership:

- Aurora has returned from Alaska, and we are scheduling her celebration for Oct 2.

- Kristen McLewin's Membership in Bellingham Friends Meeting was accepted for seasoning at the last MfWfB. We ask that you approve Kristen's membership today.

4. M&C retreat. On occasion in the past M&C has set aside a longer time to consider broader goals; our agendas are generally full each time so we often just play catch up. We have set aside Sat. Oct 22, for a half-day retreat.

5. Second Hours dates and topics—

Sept 18 Spiritual Journey—Don Goldstein

Sept 25 Quarterly Meeting No Second Hour

Oct 2 Potluck

Oct 9 MfWfB

Oct 16 Meetinghouse worship discussion (M&C)

Oct 23 Play reading (Don G)

Oct 30 "Active Hope for Bellingham"--Mary Ann's program* see below

Nov 6 Potluck

Nov 13 MforWforB

Nov 20 Quaker Ways Discernment (Dusty)

Nov 26

Dec 4 Potluck

Dec 11 MforWforB

Dec 18 Intergenerational Holiday sharing ??(anyone led to organize?)

Dec 25

6. Retreat follow-up. The Ad Hoc Retreat Committee provided a report to M&C about areas of unity (Discontentment with Explorations Academy for our Meeting) and areas where we do not have unity (A.Do we have an

identity as a Friends Meeting in the community? B. Is physical visibility important?). The report also recommended an ad hoc committee to study buy vs rent and financing issues. M&C felt it was important first to determine whether there is unity in wanting to move from Explorations Academy and what qualities we would seek in a more permanent home. We propose a series of worship discussions starting with a second hour on October 16, on the topic, "What qualities are most important in a long-term rental, so that we can give guidance to the Meetinghouse scouts..

7. We are beginning a series on spiritual journeys of our members. Let M&C know you'd like to sign up for an opportunity during Second Hour to tell us the perhaps (or perhaps not?!) long and winding road of your seeking and not/finding...perhaps what has brought you to/kept you with Friends Meeting, and more! We anticipate having approximately 45 minutes for the speaker with 15+ minutes afterward for Q&A. Some of us have experienced this process in other Meetings, where it allowed Friends of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and/or theological understandings to listen to and deepen our appreciation and connections with one another.

8. Next M&C meeting, Tuesday, September 27, 7p.m. at Larry's.

*Active Hope for Bellingham:

An opportunity to transform burn out and fear into empowerment and inspiration!

We live in challenging times. How can we respond and continue our work in the world without burning out, becoming numb or losing heart? *The Work That Reconnects*, as developed by eco-philosopher and activist Joanna Macy, is rooted in deep ecology, living systems theory, and multiple wisdom traditions. It offers ways to move beyond the often numbing, isolating sense of frustration and grief, into spaces of inspiration and action, and toward a life-enhancing human presence on Earth.

This event serves as an introduction to this work--Convene in community to celebrate our care for the world and realize your own potential to make a difference.

This short workshop will include experiential practices, teachings, music and movement. This work is engaging, invigorating, and provides tools for dealing with the challenges of living in these difficult times.

"Where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet, we hear the further call." ~Frederick Buecher

The Workshop is suitable for adults and young people 17+.

Minute of the Bellingham Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Approved by the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee of BFM on September 8, 2016, submitted to Meeting on September 11, 2016.

Approved: by Bellingham Friends Meeting on _____.

Our Meeting strongly supports the Standing Rock Sioux in opposing construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and in insisting that their legal and treaty rights be fully honored and not be violated.

This 1100-mile pipeline would create the same dangers as other projects, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, and should be rejected for the same reasons. The Dakota Access Pipeline proposal process absolutely warrants thorough and intensive environmental consideration, and full engagement with the Standing Rock Sioux, whose rights must be respected. These include but are not limited to the right of access to clean water, which is the foundation for all life, as well as the right to have their burial grounds and other sacred sites respected, protected, and preserved.

The word, “Dakota,” means “friend.” As Friends (Quakers), we bear witness to the equality and sacred nature of every person. The principle of equality is also fundamental in a democratic society. When we as a society shut out the voices and ignore the rights of Native Americans as in the current situation, we deny that principle.

As Friends, we also hold sacred the responsibility of all humanity to care for the Earth, our home, and preserve it for future generations and all life. Our Native American sisters and brothers have long modeled the importance of considering not only our own desires, but also the needs of future generations, before acting. Expediting projects such as the Dakota Access Pipeline, and pursuing the extraction, transport, and use of fossil fuel instead of renewable and sustainable alternatives imperils the earth’s waters, the atmosphere, the air we breathe, and the climate necessary for continued life on earth, all of which are vital to the Standing Rock Sioux and to all life. If we are to act quickly at this time, let it be toward developing and implementing environmentally sound practices to preserve our Earth-home and all life on it.

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Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB, September 11, 2016

The online photo gallery of BFM members and attenders contains, as of this writing, 22 photos. Wendy would be happy to take your photo today if you are not yet in the gallery and would like to be. At this point the gallery contains only photos of adults, for safety reasons, and we ask the Meeting to make this a formal policy.

Regarding the Western Washington University Student Information Fair on September 19 and 20 (a Monday and Tuesday), there are now sufficient volunteers to staff our table two Friends at all times. I will be contacting those volunteers individually in the next few days to schedule shifts. We could use another two volunteers to bake and donate cookies for our giveaway item. Announcements in the weekly BFM E-news will continue. Meanwhile, we have gathered a good variety of handout literature and will be printing a new supply of the Meeting's "Welcome" leaflet and handouts with directions and a map for getting to Explorations Academy.

Allen Stockbridge has requested to be relieved as administrator of the Meeting's group page on Facebook, and Jessica Bee has volunteered to take it over. This is expected to occur in October.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday morning, September 17th, beginning at 10:30 am at the Goldstein residence. All interested Friends are welcome, but please let me know in advance if you are coming.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 9/8/16
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Wendy Goldstein, and Kathy Long

**Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Statement of Financial Activity**

YTD 2016

	<u>Jan - June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · All Contributions				
4010 · Contributions by Check	6,985.00	15,963.00	-8,978.00	43.76%
4015 · Contributions by Cash	369.00	400.00	-31.00	92.25%
4018 · Contributions in Kind	167.67	427.00	-259.33	39.27%
Total 4000 · All Contributions	<u>7,521.67</u>	<u>16,790.00</u>	<u>-9,268.33</u>	<u>44.8%</u>
Total Income	7,521.67	16,790.00	-9,268.33	44.8%
Expense				
5000 · Finance Committee				
5011 · State Filing Fee	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
5020 · Equipment	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
5030 · Liability Insurance	0.00	575.00	-575.00	0.0%
5040 · Rent	3,600.00	7,200.00	-3,600.00	50.0%
5060 · Supplies, Postage and Copying	9.80	30.00	-20.20	32.67%
5070 · Quarterly Meeting Assessment	0.00	80.00	-80.00	0.0%
5080 · Yearly Meeting Assessment	1,140.00	2,400.00	-1,260.00	47.5%
Total 5000 · Finance Committee	<u>4,749.80</u>	<u>10,345.00</u>	<u>-5,595.20</u>	<u>45.91%</u>
5600 · Children's Program				
5630 · Childcare	876.50	1,500.00	-623.50	58.43%
5650 · Supplies and Materials	65.38	500.00	-434.62	13.08%
Total 5600 · Children's Program	<u>941.88</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>-1,058.12</u>	<u>47.09%</u>
5700 · Communications				
5710 · Advertising	70.00	70.00	0.00	100.0%
5720 · Directory	50.40	80.00	-29.60	63.0%
5730 · Newsletter	12.35	80.00	-67.65	15.44%
5740 · P.O. Box	86.00	80.00	6.00	107.5%
5750 · Website/Other	0.00	30.00	-30.00	0.0%
Total 5700 · Communications	<u>218.75</u>	<u>340.00</u>	<u>-121.25</u>	<u>64.34%</u>
6000 · Ministry and Counsel				
6030 · Gifts	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
6040 · Pamphlets and Subscriptions	125.95	125.00	0.95	100.76%
6050 · Outreach and Welcoming	65.56	200.00	-134.44	32.78%
6060 · Retreats and Special Events	441.00	500.00	-59.00	88.2%
Total 6000 · Ministry and Counsel	<u>632.51</u>	<u>875.00</u>	<u>-242.49</u>	<u>72.29%</u>
6500 · Other Committees				
6510 · Hospitality	137.67	450.00	-312.33	30.59%

**Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Statement of Financial Activity**

YTD 2016

	<u>Jan - June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
6520 · Library	22.00	150.00	-128.00	14.67%
6540 · Social and Environmental Concerns	0.00	140.00	-140.00	0.0%
Total 6500 · Other Committees	<u>159.67</u>	<u>740.00</u>	<u>-580.33</u>	<u>21.58%</u>
6600 · Outreach and Support				
6610 · AFSC	100.00	165.00	-65.00	60.61%
6611 · FCNL	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.0%
6612 · FCWPP	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.0%
6613 · FGC	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
6614 · Interfaith Coalition	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6617 · FWCC	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6618 · Quaker Earthcare Witness	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%
6620 · Right Sharing of World Resource	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%
6630 · Whatcom Peace and Justice	600.00	1,200.00	-600.00	50.0%
6640 · WA Coalition to Abolish Death Penalty	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%
6650 · W. WA Fellowship of Reconciliation	75.00	50.00	25.00	150.0%
6690 · Bellghm Human Rights Festival	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 6600 · Outreach and Support	<u>1,525.00</u>	<u>2,490.00</u>	<u>-965.00</u>	<u>61.25%</u>
Total Expense	<u>8,227.61</u>	<u>16,790.00</u>	<u>-8,562.39</u>	<u>49.0%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-705.94	0.00	-705.94	100.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
4020 · Interest	26.31			
4060 · Change in Asset Value				
4061 · FFC General Savings	-92.90			
4062 · FFC Gathering Fund	3.62			
4063 · FFC Meeting House	87.88			
4065 · Scottrade	171.68			
Total 4060 · Change in Asset Value	<u>170.28</u>			
8200 · Other Income				
8230 · Received for FCWPP	0.00			
Total 8200 · Other Income	<u>0.00</u>			
Total Other Income	<u>196.59</u>			
Net Other Income	<u>196.59</u>			
	<u><u>-509.35</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-509.35</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1010 · WECU Checking	5,025.17	3,795.08	1,230.09
1020 · WECU Savings	10,566.00	10,500.09	65.91
Total Checking/Savings	15,591.17	14,295.17	1,296.00
Total Current Assets	15,591.17	14,295.17	1,296.00
Other Assets			
1800 · Marketable Securities			
1810 · Friends Fiduciary	151,042.60	156,514.25	-5,471.65
1820 · Scottrade	25,116.41	26,484.75	-1,368.34
Total 1800 · Marketable Securities	176,159.01	182,999.00	-6,839.99
Total Other Assets	176,159.01	182,999.00	-6,839.99
TOTAL ASSETS	191,750.18	197,294.17	-5,543.99
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
3100 · Permanently Restricted			
3110 · Meeting House Funds	88,198.63	87,113.63	1,085.00
3120 · Gathering Sponsorship	45,756.21	46,491.21	-735.00
Total 3100 · Permanently Restrict...	133,954.84	133,604.84	350.00
3200 · Temporarily Restricted			
3260 · Mutual Aid	10,215.05	10,215.05	0.00
3270 · Quaker Activity	9,112.04	10,212.04	-1,100.00
3280 · Meeting House	27,558.48	27,523.48	35.00
Total 3200 · Temporarily Restrict...	46,885.57	47,950.57	-1,065.00
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	-194.76	300.00	-494.76
3500 · Unrestricted Assets	11,613.88	11,313.88	300.00
Net Income	-509.35	4,124.88	-4,634.23
Total Equity	191,750.18	197,294.17	-5,543.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	191,750.18	197,294.17	-5,543.99

Children's Program Committee Report Bellingham MfWfB Sept. 11, 2016

1. Attendance: We have had very regular attendance over the summer, including two new families and a dozen children attending the campout at Excelsior Campground!

a. Snack policy. Because we have several children who are gluten intolerant and one who is celiac, we will be only offering the kids wheat-free, gluten-free snacks during announcements. Parents will be responsible for monitoring children's access to regular snack that is shared with everyone, but we felt it would be better for all the kids to be respectful of the dietary needs of all. There are some tins of cookies above the admin cabinet that the children sometimes ask for. We agreed to label those "adult snack" and ask Friends not to give wheat cookies to kids during announcement time, but instead use those treats up during the adult coffee/snack time.

b. Age range. The ages of our kids range from 2 to 19 at present. As a general rule, we recommend that teachers plan with older children in mind (we have five who are 10-13), and simplify the lesson if only younger children attend. If there is a full range of ages present, we recommend that after the initial circle time, the childcare worker will take the younger kids aside for drawing or a simple story, while the volunteer teacher continues the lesson/discussion with the older kids. Please check in with CP committee members if you have experiences with this issue: what works? What doesn't?

2. Upcoming schedule:

Sept. 18 -Jessica Bee (Dora Kovacs)

Sept. 25 – Eric Bablinskas (Anna Row)

Oct. 2 – Aurora Fox

Oct. 9 -

Oct. 16 – Virginia Herrick

3. Lesson plans available: We have two *Friends Through Time* curriculum lessons posted on the website for anyone who would like to use them. There is also curriculum available in the Children's Program library, which is in boxes in the CP cabinet in the Commons.

4. Living Our Testimonies Project: Children's Program Committee is developing an "umbrella" project that will enable young Friends (8 and up), if they choose to participate, to build their understanding of and experience with Quaker testimonies. It will also allow the Meeting to recognize and celebrate their growing fluency. The basic idea is that each child can have a looseleaf notebook in which they can assemble a record of their experience with Quaker testimonies – lessons, experiences at Meeting and outside of Meeting that they share with the other kids, and records of the historical roots of each one. When they reach certain landmarks, they will be recognized by the Meeting and can celebrate their achievements. We are working on developing more details, and look forward to sharing them with you soon.

5. Next Meeting: Sept. 19, 5:30 p.m. Please let Virginia know if you'd like to attend.