

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Minutes
May 3, 2015

Present: Lorina Hall, Rob Dillard, Mimi Freshley, Laura Howrey, Betty McMahon, Virginia Herrick, Nan Macy, Mary Ann Percy, Carole Teshima, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Dorrie Jordan (acting Clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Karen Steen.

2015.05.01 **Ministry and Counsel** (Attachment #1)

Virginia H. asked for feedback on the meeting's electronic communications - Friends expressed appreciation for Metamorphosis and for the E-News, and expressed some general frustration about the complexity of wide variety of electronic communication options. Virginia invited friends to share their insights and concerns directly with a member of M&C or OWG.

2015.05.02 **Outreach and Welcoming Report** (Attachment #2)

2015.05.03 **Nominating Committee** - announced the nomination of Harry Finks as the Native American Representative. At this time there is no job description, and Harry is being encouraged to meet with the prior liaison and others to develop a description for the job.

2015.05.03.1 Harry Finks' nomination as Native American Representative was accepted for seasoning.

2015.05.04 **Report from Lopez PM Joint Oversight Committee** (Attachment #3)

Details of progress toward establishing a Lopez Island Monthly Meeting were joyfully acknowledged by Friends.

2015.05.05 **Member concerns** (Attachment #4)

2015.05.05.1 The meeting agreed to take up the issue of the appropriate location for the September 13th meeting for worship for those not attending the retreat (Explorations Academy or the retreat center) at the next MfWfB. Meanwhile Friends are requested to contact Don Goldstein with their preferences and willingness to serve needed roles if the a MFW were held at Explorations Academy simultaneously with the retreat.

2015.05.05.2 A proposal to donate \$200 from our non-permanently-restricted meetinghouse fund to Port Townsend Meeting to help with their kitchen fund was accepted for seasoning. Friends were also encouraged to consider individual donations directly to Port Townsend Meeting.

2015.05.05.3 Minutes for the April MfWfB were approved with minor changes.

2015.05.06 Retreat planning report (Attachment #5).

These minutes approved with minor changes at MfWfB June 14, 2015.

Attachment #1:

Ministry & Counsel Report to Bellingham Friends

Meeting for Worship for Business, 5-3-2015

1. (Information) **Advices and Queries** – #28 little red book: Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

2. (Information) **Second Hours:**

May 10 – Potluck

May 17 – QEI: Quaker History II (Don G.)

May 24 – extended social time - Memorial Day weekend

May 31 – County Comprehensive Plan presentation

June 7 – Potluck

June 14 – MfWfB

June 21 – QEI: Spiritual Journeys: Looking to the Future (Sharon Trent)

June 28 – “Faith and Practice” discussion with Alice Robb? (unconfirmed)

3. (Information) **Committee Job Description review:** Minor editorial changes were made, reflecting more accurately our practice (such as, keeping the length of committee meetings to two hours), and organizing the job description to be easier to use. There were no substantive changes. The updated description will be sent to Nominating Committee. If anyone would like to see a copy of the updated job description, please ask!

4. (Information) **Memorial Minute** for Howard Harris has been sent to *Western Friend*, *Friends Journal* and F.U.M.'s *Quaker Life*. WF may only publish online.

5. (Information) **Membership Clearness Committee:** We expect to convene the clearness committee as soon as is convenient after Susan gets back into town. Susan, Rob and Virginia will serve on the committee.

6. (Information) **Clerk's and Others Spring Supper** - May 19th - at Susan's - 6 pm. This annual tradition is an opportunity for Friends who have been or are about to be involved in the work of the Meeting through committee clerking or representative responsibilities -- as well as anyone else who is interested -- to get together for social time, reflection, and sharing. Please contact Susan about what dish you'd like to bring so she can coordinate the potluck.

7. (Information) **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 2, at MaryAnn's house. Please contact Virginia if you have a concern you'd like to bring to the committee.

Attachment #2:

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Group to Bellingham Friends Meeting, 5/3/15

The Outreach and Welcoming Group held a transition meeting on April 17th, which due to scheduling difficulties was our first meeting for several months. We reviewed the status of a large number of projects and activities, including the Facebook page and other online communication tools, publications, management of New Attender Cards and nametags, and efforts at outreach and collaboration with other organizations. Here are some highlights:

- We spent some time discussing why the BFM List Serve, an online tool for personal, private, and direct communication among Friends, has been so little used. We decided to ask Ministry and Counsel to support a presentation by OWG about List Serve use and advantages in a Second Hour that would facilitate Friends in joining the List Serve community immediately.
- We acknowledged that the accessibility and success of the BFM Facebook page could have major implications for the future character of the BFM website, but deferred detailed discussion of this matter until Webkeeper John Hatten can meet with us.
- We agreed to support work to protect the BFM sandwich-board sign from further weathering-related deterioration while enhancing its visibility. Allen Stockbridge will undertake this work in the near future.
- We had some preliminary discussion about the possibility of a full-day Quaker Quest workshop, possibly in lieu of an annual retreat, and about the various costs and benefits that might be involved. Although Quaker Quest is designed primarily as an outreach program, the initial workshop places a strong emphasis on Meeting inreach and community-building. We expect to discuss this at greater length and to invite broad participation in our discernment.

The OWG will meet next on Thursday, May 21 beginning at 7 pm at Jenny Davidow's home. Any interested BFM Friend is welcome to join us for part or all of the meeting.

--Don Goldstein, 2015-17 Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Group

Other subcommittee members are Jenny Davidow and Dusty Andersen. Outgoing committee members who participated in the recent meeting were Allen Stockbridge, Jessica Bee, and Mary Ann Percy. Also joining us was Wendy Goldstein. John Hatten occasionally joins us to discuss website-related issues. Virginia Herrick often joins us as a liaison with Ministry & Counsel, a role she now expects to share with Mary Ann Percy.

Attachment #3:

Report on Behalf of Lopez PM Joint Oversight Committee to BFM, 5/3/15

The Joint Oversight Committee has not been able to hold a transition meeting as yet, due in part to the unavailability of our new Clerk, Susan Richardson, during the month of April. There has been significant communication, however, from our counterpart in Lopez Preparative Meeting, Charlie Janeway, and other Bellingham members of the JOC have been briefed by email.

The principal news is that Lopez Preparative Meeting has taken action to ask for recognition as a monthly meeting. This decision was made on April 12th and will season for a month to await final confirmation on May 10th. In the meanwhile, Charlie (acting on behalf of the Preparative Meeting) has sought consultation with us concerning next steps to be taken by the Preparative Meeting, by the Joint Oversight Committee, by Bellingham Friends Meeting, and by Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting, the body empowered to confer final recognition of the Lopez Meeting's new status.

Charlie and I had a discussion of these steps during the recent Quarterly Meeting, joined by Iris Graville, Co-clerk of Lopez Preparative Meeting. We came to an understanding that the following steps would be a reasonable road-map for proceeding, subject to consultation with the other JOC members and others who would be involved:

- Lopez reached unity to request MM status at our April Meeting for Business; the proposal is seasoning until the May business meeting (May 10).
- Following the May business meeting, someone (Charlie? Ron? a co-clerk?) will notify Bellingham if we're moving ahead. After that, Joint Oversight Committee could meet for lunch in Anacortes. That meeting would include new, incoming members of JOC from Bellingham.
- Proposal would go to Bellingham in June (or perhaps July depending on how quickly Lopez writes a letter). Proposal would go to Bellingham in the form of a letter from the Meeting and signed by the co-clerks.
- Following acceptance of the proposal by Bellingham, the two meetings (Lopez and B'ham) will send a letter to PNQM M & O and Co-clerks in time for the Fall 2015 PNQM gathering.
- PNQM forms a Visiting Committee (approved by QM at business meeting in the fall) including at least one person from the Bellingham side of the JOC.
- Visiting Committee will need a liaison on Lopez for visits - typically 2 visits.
- Visiting Committee recommends Monthly Meeting status at Spring 2016 PNQM business meeting.
- JOC is to be laid down upon the Visiting Committee making its recommendation to PNQM.

So far, all of the discussion has concerned process. Substantive discussion of Lopez's readiness to become a monthly meeting will be in order during our June and July Meetings for Business and during the interim between those occasions. However, if there are specific questions regarding such readiness that Friends would like the JOC to raise, please contact any of us.

--Don Goldstein, Acting Clerk of BFM contingent of Lopez PM Joint Oversight Committee
Other committee members are Susan Richardson (incoming Clerk), Dusty Andersen, Harry Finks, and Kathy Finks

Attachment #4:

Member Concerns for Consideration by Bellingham Friends Meeting on 5/3/15

1. Although related to a committee decision (specifically, that of the Retreat Planning Committee regarding the dates of the 2015 Annual BFM Retreat), I am bringing this as a Member Concern because the committee has taken no action regarding the specific issue raised here, namely whether or not BFM should cancel its regular meeting for worship on Sunday, September 13th at Explorations Academy. This question has been considered by Ministry and Counsel at my request, with the primary concern being whether or not there would be sufficient qualified Friends not attending the retreat in order to open, set up, and generally support holding a regular meeting for worship on that date.

My proposal has to do with process rather than substance. I propose that this issue be considered for decision at our next MfWfB on June 14th, and that Friends be encouraged to consult their calendars and families in the meanwhile to determine whether they expect to attend the retreat on September 12th and 13th or, if not, whether they would be willing to sign up for a meeting-support chore in the event that our regular meeting for worship here is not cancelled. The specific chore of Key Person is particularly crucial because 3 of our 5 current Key Persons are serving on the Retreat Planning Committee and therefore will not be available for a meeting at Explorations Academy.

The main reason to request a decision on this matter in June is that the Retreat program will be affected by it, since retreat non-registrants would be invited to join retreat attenders at Camp Lutherwood for meeting for worship on September 13th if the worship at Explorations Academy is cancelled, requiring at least a larger space for worship and possibly other program adjustments.

2. As most of us know, Port Townsend Friends Meeting acquired its own meetinghouse last year. Several Bellingham Friends attended a meetinghouse warming/celebration in November and were favorably impressed with the new facility and the Meeting's agility in financing the purchase on short notice. The primary deficit of the meetinghouse is the lack of a kitchen. Port Townsend Friends are currently raising funds to support having one installed using a space that now is used as a serving kitchen but which lacks the space and appliances needed to prepare food and wash a significant amount of dishes. I have checked with their Clerk and learned that the expected cost of the new kitchen will be about \$25,000, of which they have so far raised about \$8,000.

I propose the Bellingham Friends show solidarity with our fellow Friends in Port Townsend by making a donation toward their kitchen-installation project. The amount I suggest for consideration is \$200, to be taken for accounting purposes from the non-permanently-restricted portion of our Meeting House Fund. Individual Bellingham Friends wanting to show similar support could perhaps donate earmarked funds for the same purpose, to be delivered to Port Townsend Friends Meeting along with our Meeting's collective donation. I am personally willing to commit to a donation of \$50.

--Don Goldstein

Attachment #5:

Report of 2015 BFM Retreat Planning Committee, 4/12/15

During the March 2015 Meeting for Worship for Business Friends approved the proposed change of retreat location from Quaker Cove to Camp Lutherwood and asked the committee to solicit information on date preferences by means of a Doodle poll, which Carole Teshima set up and distributed using the choice of dates that were actually available at Camp Lutherwood for a summertime or early fall retreat beginning on Saturday afternoon and ending on Sunday afternoon.

Based on the results of that poll and other relevant considerations, the committee has selected as the new retreat dates September 12th and 13th. A reservation has been made with Camp Lutherwood for these dates and a deposit of \$100 paid. We will soon be informing other nearby meetings of the change in both location and dates.

There are two other pieces of news that the committee wishes to share with the Meeting:

1. Stephanie Manzo has found it necessary to resign from the Retreat Planning Committee, and we would very much like to invite participation in planning and program development by one or more other Bellingham Friends so that we can go forward at full strength. The committee usually meets on a weekday evening once a month.
2. An anonymous donor has given the Meeting \$500, earmarked "for over night retreat or a better cause if there is one". Should the Meeting choose to use these funds for the one specific potential purpose mentioned by the donor, the committee believes that consideration of charging a fee to attend the retreat is not necessary.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk

Other committee members are Carole Teshima, Mary Ann Percy, and Wendy Goldstein